

December 12, 2014

World's best wildlife images on display at the Royal BC Museum

VICTORIA, BC – British Columbia photographer, Jess Findlay, is featured as *Wildlife Photographer of the Year* returns to the Royal BC Museum on Friday, Dec. 12, presented by the Natural History Museum, London and BBC Worldwide.

Celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2014, the exhibition features 100 winning images, in huge, backlit displays, selected from a field of 42,000 international entries. The inaugural competition in 1965 attracted just 361 entries.

Findlay, an avid bird watcher and naturalist from Vancouver, was a finalist in **the Earth's Diversity, Birds category for his image, "Pauraque study,"** a close-up and detailed photograph of the common pauraque, a type of nightjar, taken at Estero Llamo Grande State Park in southern Texas.

A second Canadian photographer featured in the exhibition, Nick Hawkins of New Brunswick, was also a finalist in the **Earth's Diversity, Birds category for "Dinner party,"** his image of American black vultures feeding on the carcass of a pacific green turtle in Costa Rica.

"We are thrilled that this year, once again, a BC photographer has been recognized by *Wildlife Photographer of the Year*," said Prof. Jack Lohman, Royal BC Museum CEO. **"Jess Findlay's powerful image of a nightjar** captures a remarkable photographic moment that, like all the photographs in this exhibition, has a lasting power and stays with you. I am delighted we can **present these winning photographs in the context of one of the world's great museums."**

The annual competition, organized by the Natural History Museum and co-owned with BBC Worldwide, receives entries from professionals, gifted amateurs and young photographers alike. The international judging panel **includes some of the world's most respected nature photographers and wildlife experts.**

The exhibition features 100 photographs from 96 countries in 22 categories, including three new categories launched to mark the 50th anniversary of the **competition, TIMElapse, Adult Portfolio and the People's Choice Award.** Each photographic situation is described by the photographer, along with technical details including camera, lens, aperture and exposure.

This year's *Wildlife Photographer of the Year* images also include the stunning and serene *Wildlife Photographer of the Year* winning photograph by American Michael Nichols, of **lions resting with their cubs in Tanzania's Serengeti**



National Park. Visitors to the exhibition will be charmed by Dutch photographer **Marsel van Oosten's People's Choice Award winning image of a young Japanese macaque examining a smartphone snatched from a tourist.**

Activities and learning programs during the run of the exhibition include *Live@Lunch - Early Photographer: Through the Lens of the Royal BC Museum* (Jan. 7 and 10), and for younger visitors *Wonder Sunday: Wildlife Booksmack with the Greater Victoria Public Library* (Feb. 22) and *Spring Break Camps - Focus on Nature, Wildlife Photographer of the Year-inspired day camps* featuring Jess Findlay (March 9-13, March 16-20).

The *2014 Wildlife Photographer of the Year* exhibition closes April 6, 2015.

About the Royal BC Museum

The Royal BC Museum explores the province's human history and natural history, advances new knowledge and understanding of BC, and provides a dynamic forum for discussion and a place for reflection. The museum and archives celebrate culture and history, telling the stories of BC in ways that enlighten, stimulate and inspire. Looking to the future, by 2017 the Royal BC Museum will be a refreshed, modern museum, extending its reach far beyond Victoria as a world-class cultural venue and repository of digital treasures.

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