

BACKGROUND

Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2020 (55)

THE EXHIBITION

- *Wildlife Photographer of the Year* is an annual exhibition of the best nature photography from around the world, featuring the winners of a global competition developed and produced by the Natural History Museum in London, UK.
- Photos to the competition are submitted from photographers from (and shooting) around the world. This global perspective is reflected in the geographic reach and biodiversity depicted in the winning photographs.
- The competition champions ethical photography; images are chosen for their artistic composition, technical innovation and truthful interpretation of the natural world.
- Visit www.nhm.ac.uk for more info about the competition, jury and exhibition.

THE ROYAL BC MUSEUM AS VENUE

- The exhibition opens at the Royal BC Museum on February 14, 2020 and ends on March 29, 2020.
- This is the ninth year the Royal BC Museum has hosted the exhibition.
- The Royal BC Museum is the only venue in western North America for the *Wildlife Photographer of the Year 55* exhibition (the exhibition will also be at the Royal Ontario Museum, Detroit Zoo and Houston Museum of Natural Science).

THE PHOTOGRAPHS

- This exhibition features 100 brand new photographs, selected from more than 50,000 entries submitted to the Natural History Museum.



- The photographs are displayed on large LED backlit panels.
- Each photograph contains detailed captions telling the stories behind the photos and the technical details of each image.
- **China's Yongqing Bao won the prestigious Wildlife Photographer of the Year title for The Moment**, his image of a confrontation between a Tibetan fox and a marmot.

PHOTO ASSETS + INTERVIEWS FOR MEDIA

- Three photos by **Canadians received accolades as "Highly Commended"** and are featured in the exhibition. They are:
 - Francoise Gervais, for **"The Challenge"**, in the Animals in their Environment category;
 - Jo-Anne McArthur, for **"The Wall of Shame"**, in the Wildlife Photojournalism category; and
 - **Jason Bantle**, for **"Lucky Break"**, in the Urban Wildlife category.
- **MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES:** please note that all three photographers are willing and able to speak about their photographs and the competition. See contact info below to set up an interview.
- Visit <https://www.flickr.com/gp/36463010@N05/6Ka156> for images from the exhibition; the header of this Flickr folder includes guidelines for media use.

PHOTO-RELATED TIE-INS

- As usual, the Royal BC Museum will feature Spring Break Camps for kids and for adults in March where photography is the sole focus. The adult workshop takes place on March 7; kids' camps take place on weekdays from March 16 to 20 and March 23 to 27.

- Night Shift: Come for the party, stay for the exhibition! Canadian photographer Jo-Anne McArthur, whose highly commended image is featured in the exhibition, will serve as docent during the Vintage Valentines Night Shift event on Feb. 14, 8 pm to midnight. 19+ with ID; \$49.95 (includes entry to Wildlife Photographer of the Year).

- Check the online calendar for info about these and other special events and activities: royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/visit/calendar

- The Royal Museum Shop offers two beautiful publications that are excellent companion pieces to the exhibition:
 - Wildlife Photographer of the Year: Highlights Volume 5, a 96 page volume for \$16.95.
 - Wildlife Photographer of the Year – Portfolio 29, a 160 page volume for \$53.95. This collection features all 100 winning photographs from the 2019 competition.

WHAT COMES NEXT

The Royal BC Museum is busy putting the final touches on its own in-house-built feature exhibition, *Orcas: Our Shared Future*, which opens on May 15 and ends on December 31, 2020.

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. Located in Victoria on the traditional territory of the Lekwungen (Songhees and Xwsepsum Nations), we are a hub of community connections in BC—onsite, offsite and online—taking pride in our collective histories.

Media contact:

Royal BC Museum Media Inquiries

250-387-5051

news@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

 @RoyalBCMuseum  royalbcmuseum  RoyalBCMuseum

