

LIFE ON EARTH

JONATHAN Z LEE



Message from the artist

I think of what I do as a work of love first, and a work of art second. The fact that my images are now on display in homes across four continents, and that they have received numerous accolades and publications is tremendously humbling and motivating.

Ansel Adams said that photography can be the truest form of expression of what one feels about life in its entirety. I believe this to be true.

I strive to leave a fragment of soul in each photograph I make. I cannot ever fully impart how I feel about our living planet onto another, but I'd like to think it can be pieced together from what I have placed in each image. I seek to create photographs that will ask questions of the viewer and I hope they can serve as a sort of three-way exchange between myself, my subject(s), and the audience as we each explore our place in the natural order.

I have ventured from pole to pole, explored above and below the surface, and much in between. I have stared into the pupils of polar bears, tigers, dolphins, elephants, grizzlies, lions, lemurs, penguins, sharks, leopards, and humans. And in every set, I have seen the divine spark of life which resides in all beings.

I have learned so much from the beings we share our planet with. Ultimately what I offer is simple – This is how I see them. This is how they made me feel. This is life on earth.

I personally believe that art has a powerful role to play in protecting our planet's future, and as such, a significant portion of proceeds from print sales goes back into supporting frontline conservation.

With utmost sincerity, thank you for your interest in my work, and more importantly, in the splendor of our living planet



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Conservation Partners - African Parks Network

Now Exhibiting – Royal Leamington Spa (Nova Fine Art), Marlow (Nova Fine Art)

Publications - National Geographic, Vanity Fair UK, BBC Earth

Natural History Museum Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2019, 2020 Finalist



यस्तु सर्वानि भूतान्यात्मन्येवानुपश्यति ।
सर्वभूतेषु चात्मानं ततो न विजुगुप्सते ॥

यस्मिन्सर्वानि भूतानन्यात्मैवभुद्विजानतः ।
तत्र को मोहः कः शोक एकत्वमनुपश्यतः ॥

Those who see all creatures in themselves
And themselves in all creatures
Know no fear.

Those who see all creatures in themselves
And themselves in all creatures
Know no grief.

How can the multiplicity of life
Delude the one who sees its
Unity?

Isha Upanishad VI - VII

Featured collections

- I. AT WORLD'S END
- II. LORDS OF THE JUNGLE
- III. IN MY ELEMENT
- IV. NEW RELEASES



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Exact dimensions will vary based on the specific composition, with the following sizes for reference:

- Small: 36" x 24"
- Medium: 48" x 32"
- Large: 60" x 40"
- Exhibition: 72" x 48"
- *Custom sizes by request*

A black and white photograph showing a vast colony of penguins, likely King penguins, on a rugged, snow-covered mountain landscape. The foreground is filled with hundreds of fluffy, dark-colored penguin chicks, their heads turned in various directions. In the middle ground, the colony extends further, with many adult penguins visible among the chicks. The background features steep, rocky mountains with patches of snow and ice, under a clear sky. The text "AT WORLD'S END" is overlaid in the center of the image.

AT WORLD'S END



At World's End

Is a journey into the land of beyond, the gateway to the heart of winter, a raucous celebration of life at the end of the world



Dawn Patrol
South Georgia Island
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Medium
- Large
- Exhibition

There are not that many good reasons to get out of bed at 3:15AM but here's one

When the conditions align (a rarity in the unforgiving sub Antarctic), you better make the most of it, and so we rallied to load the zodiacs, make a landing, and find our shots. We made it on the beach at around 4:20AM, and soon thereafter, my attention turned to this tight huddle of penguins - it was an ethereal scene in the burning morning mist, and this shot, a bit of a visual illusion, was made possible by the thin strip of land the penguins were on, wedged between a channel of water in the foreground and the ocean in the background

The more you look at it, the more you notice. On the left there is a brave penguin testing the waters they are about to cross. On the right we have a rear scout checking their six. The edges of the waves catch the sun just right



Land of Beyond
South Georgia Island
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large
- Exhibition

"Have ever you heard of the
Land of Beyond,
That dreams at the gates of the day?
Alluring it lies at the skirts of the skies,
And ever so far away"

- Robert Service



At World's End
South Georgia Island
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large
- Exhibition

At world's end I found not silence, but a great raucous din

At world's end I found not emptiness, but an unrelenting pulse of life

These three penguins were a gift - perched on a rock in the middle of a shallow pool, surrounded by their comrades and the dramatic peaks in the background just as the light was breaking through



Arise
South Georgia Island
Edition of 30

- Available in:
- Small
 - Medium
 - Large
 - Exhibition



The Littlest Sea Monster
South Georgia Island
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large

The scene at this little pool was calm and dreamy. The crowd of penguins dotting the banks leading up to the jagged peaks ensure that there can be no doubt as to where this was taken

Then there is this curious little pup. I encountered it all alone, swimming in the shallow pool half submerged, like a little sea monster. It noticed me and climbed out for a closer look, eyes wide with earnest and innocence. There was not an ounce of fear as we regarded one another, just two creatures curious about the strange being in front of them. I lay motionless, and it crawled so close I could feel its every frosty breath on my cheek



I'll Stop Wearing Black When They Make a Darker Color
South Georgia Island
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large

I come back to these penguins over and over – there's something there in the subtle expressions, in how the two regard the one. Art shouldn't tell the viewer what they are seeing, it should ask the question of them. Is he the outcast? The leader? The fashion statement? The balance of intimacy and scale draws the viewer in, and allows space to breathe as these questions are contemplated



Exhalation
South Georgia Island
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large

"The universe began as an enormous breath being held. Who knows why, but whatever reason, I am glad that it did, because I owe my existence to that fact.

All my desires and ruminations are no more and no less than eddy currents generated by the gradual exhalation of our universe.

And until this great exhalation is finished, my thoughts live on."

- Ted Chiang, Exhalation



Mr & Mrs Smith
South Georgia Island
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large

Surely the coolest couple this side of the Antarctic. I found this spot in St Andrew's Bay particularly intriguing, as it allowed me to put together a layered narrative with some visual dissonance

I think it makes for a good movie poster



Early Bird
South Georgia Island
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large
- Exhibition

4AM on St Andrews Bay - some days you just get lucky, and as you are sitting on the beach, rubbing the sleep out of your eyes so you can enjoy the sunrise, a king penguin pops out of the surf and waddles right into the morning's first ray of light, softly reflecting off the surface.

And if you are really lucky, you've got your settings just right despite your sleep deprived state, and so you only need one frame - just as well, because one frame is all you get before the penguin waddles out of the good light.



Ozymandias
South Georgia Island
Edition of 30

- Available in:
- Small
 - Medium
 - Large

Out here you inevitably get in the way of the king penguins, or vice versa. And you begin to notice things. Most penguins scatter. Some hold their ground. Some get curious. Some challenge you to a fight

And some, or maybe just this one, puff out their chest and stand tall, proud, regal and statuesque, ignoring you completely

A name sprang to mind immediately, and with a nod to Percy Shelly's classic - here is Ozymandias, the king of kings



Oh, The Places You'll Go
South Georgia Island
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large



Our Living Planet
South Georgia Island
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large

"Isn't this enough? Just this world? Just this beautiful, complex, wonderfully unfathomable world? How does it so fail to hold our attention that we have to diminish it with the invention of cheap, man-made myths and monsters?"

- Tim Minchin

This one caught me off-guard, there is something disarming about it



Civilization
South Georgia Island
Edition of 30

Available in:
• Medium
• Large
• Exhibition





LORDS OF THE JUNGLE

Lords of the Jungle

Is an exploration of the law of the jungle, as old and true as the sky, which dictates a place for every beast. This is the jungle as romanticized by Kipling and Corbett.

There is magic here. The old gods are here.

*The herds are shut in byre and hut
For loosed till dawn are we.
This is the hour of pride and power,
Talon and tush and claw. Oh, hear the call!—
Good hunting all
That keep the Jungle Law*

- Rudyard Kipling






Lords of the Jungle
Ranthambore, India
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Medium
- Large
- Exhibition

There are some ideas that get lodged in your mind, and simply cannot be shaken. For me, it was an immersive image of a tiger in the winter. Serene, lush, mysterious, expansive. The tigers would be harder to come by in this season, but nothing good ever came easy. And it wasn't any tiger I was after, it was Arrowhead, queen of Ranthambore

In my heart it was the romanticism of orange and black on green - the lords of the jungle in their element - which I longed for, but it would not come easy. 6 months of preparation for this moment. The right guide, the right time, the right kit, the right permits. All we needed as Arrowhead. It was an emotional moment for me when this came together. Here she is, the queen of Ranthambore in all her glory



Knight of the Flowers
Bandipur, India
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large



Shakti
Kabini, India
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large

it is both near and far,
both within and without
every creature;

it moves and is unmoving. in its subtlety it
is beyond comprehension
it is invisible,
yet appears divided in separate creatures

know it to be the creator,
the preserver,
and the destroyer

dwelling in every heart, it is beyond
darkness

it is called the light of the
l i g h t s

-- text from the Bhagavad Gita

Shakti refers to the cosmic creative energy
from which we come



Atman
Ranthambore, India
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium

those who see all creatures in
themselves
and themselves in all creatures

know no fear

those who see all creatures in
themselves
and themselves in all creatures

know no grief

how can the multiplicity of life
delude the one who sees its

u n i t y ?

-- Isha Upanishad

Atman refers to the spark of the divine
which resides in every living being

Ananda
Bandipur, India
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium

look to this day,
for it is life,
the very life of life

in its brief course lie all the truths
and realities of your existence;
the bliss of growth
the glory of action, and
the splendor of beauty;

for yesterday is but a
dream
and tomorrow is only a
vision

-- text from the Bhagavad Gita

Ananda refers to the state of bliss or joy
which comes from understanding the
cosmic truth





Kabini
Kabini, India
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large
- Exhibition

The jungle of Kabini is enchanted. Of
that I am certain

Tendrils of morning mist sliding
through the trees. Deep impenetrable
green curtains wet with dew hanging
on gnarled, untamed branches. A
symphony of calls carrying through the
crisp air - Here a langur. There a chital.
And always backed by birdsong

Serenity

Then a different call cuts through.
Alarm! The jungle snaps to attention.
The atmosphere is taut, as if suddenly
stretched by an invisible force. Bristling
with electricity. More calls ring out

Tension

The lords of the jungle have
arrived. They appear as if conjured
from the very heart of the woods.
Sometimes as reaper of lesser
souls, sometimes merely to survey
their domain. The jungle settles
again under their watchful gaze

I had a clear preconception of
what I wanted from the southern
Indian jungles, but was not
prepared for just how spectacular
the setting would be

The jungle of Kabini is enchanted.
Of that I am certain

Maharaja
Singapore
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Medium
- Large
- Exhibition





Ghost in a Shell
Singapore
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large

Sultana
Ranthambore, India
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Medium
- Large
- Exhibition

To appreciate a tiger is to recognize the
duality of its unrivaled beauty and sheer
ferocity

To look into the eyes of a tiger is to be
consumed

Seduced by a marvel of aesthetic
design, then engulfed by the flames
within, from which its very being seems
to be forged

I lost myself in Sultana's eyes, in her
form, in her aura, as we considered one
another on a lonely jungle path

I looked away first

Because she was too beautiful, and too
dangerous, to behold



Jungle Lore
Kabini, India
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Medium
- Large
- Exhibition

Framed in the deepest, densest,
dampest of greens

This is the Indian jungle as
romanticized by Kipling and
Corbett

Lush and wild and seductive

And what better subject to bring it
to life than its most graceful and
elusive inhabitant

It is easy to see why tales from the
jungle have so enthralled us
generation after generation





Over the Hills and Far Away
Bera, India
Edition of 30


Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large



IN MY ELEMENT



A full-page background image showing a person in silhouette walking away from the viewer through a narrow, arched passage in a massive ice wall. The ice is a deep, translucent blue, with a bright light source (the sun) visible in the upper left corner, creating a strong lens flare and illuminating the scene. The ground is covered in snow and ice, with tracks leading towards the person. The overall atmosphere is cold, majestic, and serene.

In My Element

Is an intimate and focused exploration of the relationship between the most fantastic beasts and their environments.

The ICE and WATER series are shown here, featuring the great bears of the high north



Thy Kingdom Come
Nunavut, Canada
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Medium
- Large
- Exhibition

"Wild and wide are my borders, stern as death is my sway;
From my ruthless throne I have ruled alone for a million years and a day
I am the land that listens, I am the land that broods;
Steeped in eternal beauty, crystalline waters and woods."

- Robert Service

The king in the north presides over his dominion.
Humbled, I can but marvel at the splendor and bask in his glory.



A Dream of Spring
Nunavut, Canada
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Medium
- Large
- Exhibition

Encountering a polar bear by a towering iceberg on the frozen sea, surrounded by glacial cliffs is not something I'd ever conceived, even with my admittedly far-fetched imagination.

This big handsome male showed up on our final day as we made our way from camp back to Qikiqtarjuaq. After blizzard conditions the day before, the land was heaped with fresh, deep powder, reflecting soft white from the clearing skies.



Spirit in the Snow
Nunavut, Canada
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Medium
- Large
- Exhibition

The Inuit say you better hope to see the bear before you hear it, or else it's too late. They stalk swiftly and silently. A ghost that comes and goes with the drifting snow.

Polar bears are resilient, nimble, and powerful. Most of all, they are curious - a trait crucial for survival in such an unforgiving environment. They are the largest land-based predator, and yet they prove to be ever elusive, able to vanish into the great white emptiness in a blink of the eye.

They are creatures of which fantastic tales are told over and over, from generation to generation.

This male emerging from the deep blue shadows was a solid, stocky 10 foot beast. I could barely make him out when tucked along the ice away from the light. But as he took a few silent strides towards me, he caught the sun and burst into a spectral glow.

Eyes locked, and I was immediately lost in those obsidian orbs.



Peekaboo
Nunavut, Canada
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large

The beauty of a wild encounter is precisely that it is never on your terms. It is whatever the animal wants it to be, permits it to be.

Looking for a clump of white fur in a never-ending frozen white expanse feels like a hopeless exercise. There are signs in the snow which tell you which direction to go, but more often than not, the trail goes...well, cold.

But sometimes, grace comes in ways you don't expect. Sometimes that clump of white fur is poking its head out and looking for you.



River Spirit
Alaska, USA
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large
- Exhibition

Elegance, power, focus. The spirit of wild Alaska embodied in fur and flesh.

Every bear has a different fishing technique, which makes it so fascinating to observe. This bear was particularly magnificent, infusing an air of gracefulness and ease, like a long boarder dancing on the waves.



Postcard from Alaska
Alaska, USA
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large

"The land was vast before her. The sun was setting down the river, casting a cold pink hue along the white-capped mountains that framed both sides of the valley. Upriver, the willow shrubs and gravel bars, the spruce forests and low-lying poplar stands, swelled to the mountains in steely blue. No fields or fences, homes or roads; not a single living soul as far as she could see in any direction.

Only wilderness."

This passage from the book 'The Snow Child' - really a love story to the Alaskan Wilderness - could not be more fitting for this scene, and it ran through my head as this gorgeous bear stepped into frame.

This is Alaska as I had dreamed it, with all the majestic, beauty and raw energy in context



Postcard from Alaska

Alaska, USA

Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium

"For a moment its eyes locked, and there, in its narrowing golden irises, he saw the savagery of the place. Like he was staring wilderness itself straight in the eye

He wondered if that was how a man held up his end of the bargain, by learning and taking into his heart this strange wilderness - guarded and naked, violent and meek, tremulous in its greatness"

- Eowyn Ivey



We Are Stardust

Alaska, USA

Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium

Every atom and molecule within the body is in motion and eventually ends up being excreted, exhaled, or shed

These atoms are replaced directly by elements of the biosphere

Every year, 40,000 tons of cosmic dust falls to earth. Eventually, all of that debris, which contains oxygen, carbon, iron, nickel, and all the other elements, finds its way into the soil, plants, animals, and our bodies

In this way we have a dynamic relationship with the cosmos above

Because humans are part of a system of perpetual exchange with all of the elements and living beings in the universe, we are not just in the universe,

We actually are the universe

Such is the cycle of this phenomenal life



Water Walker
Alaska, USA
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large

This image did not come easy - it was the kind of wet, windy day which leaves you soaked to the bone, shivering uncontrollably, muttering prayers through chattering teeth for the camera equipment to not be totally ruined.

But several hours in, with just enough light to make it work, this happens - a large male bear explodes into my field of vision at full speed - on instinct I dropped prone in the mud and held the camera as steady as I could. The bear was so close that I was in the splash zone.

When the sequence was over I wiped the LCD screen frantically because I knew I had a shot.



Kinetic Energy

Alaska, USA

Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large

It's moments like these that make me so thankful that we have the technology to freeze frame even the most dramatic bit of action. This bear is poetry in motion and I could not stop looking at this image after its capture. I kept loading it on larger and larger screens to see this beauty in full glory.

There is a palpable kinetic energy - every molecule is moving in unison in a burst of muscle, fur and water. Eyes burn with singular focus - bear reads salmon and salmon reads bear simultaneously, each making the slightest adjustments in their movements on instinct

Success or failure is uncertain in this frozen instant, but the transfer of energy is absolute.



White Walker
Svalbard, Norway
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large
- Exhibition

This is Svalbard in the summer - stark white on a canvas of rich black

The landscapes have a penchant for drama. Raw, silent, imposing. They don't want you mistaking this place for anywhere else in the world

And here, the white shadows stir. They make not a sound, these spectres of the north. Do they bring the cold, or does the cold bring them?

The lonesome kings of winter

The ice and the rock and the icy rocks dominate the frame. The wandering beasts, who we know as the largest land predators on the planet, are, in context, revealed to be rather insignificant flecks of white



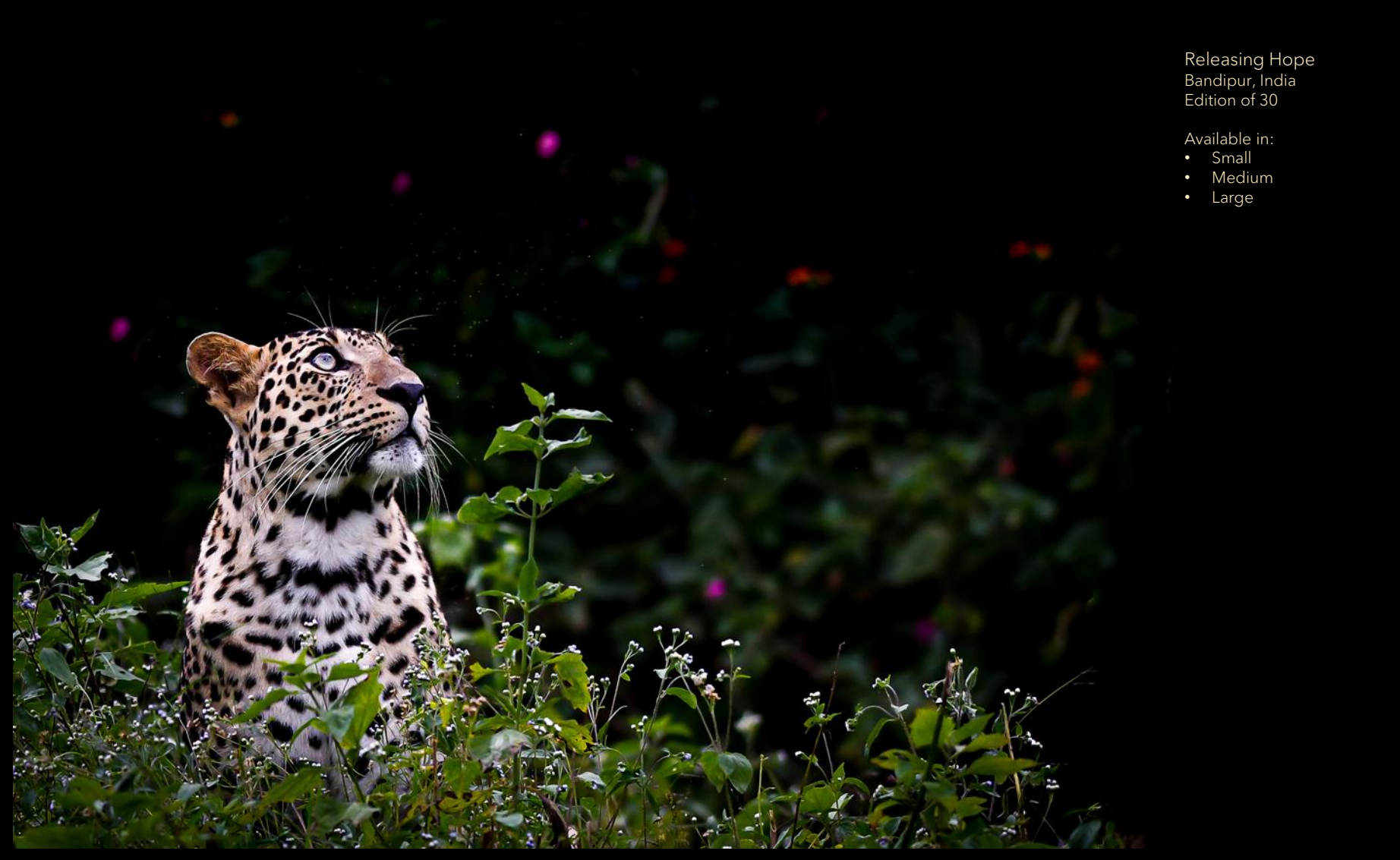


NEW RELEASES

Releasing Hope
Bandipur, India
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large





On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous
Bandipur, India
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large



Sentinel
Odzala-Kokoua, Congo
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large



The Forest Eternal
Odzala-Kokoua, Congo
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large



Brazza
Odzala-Kokoua, Congo
Edition of 30

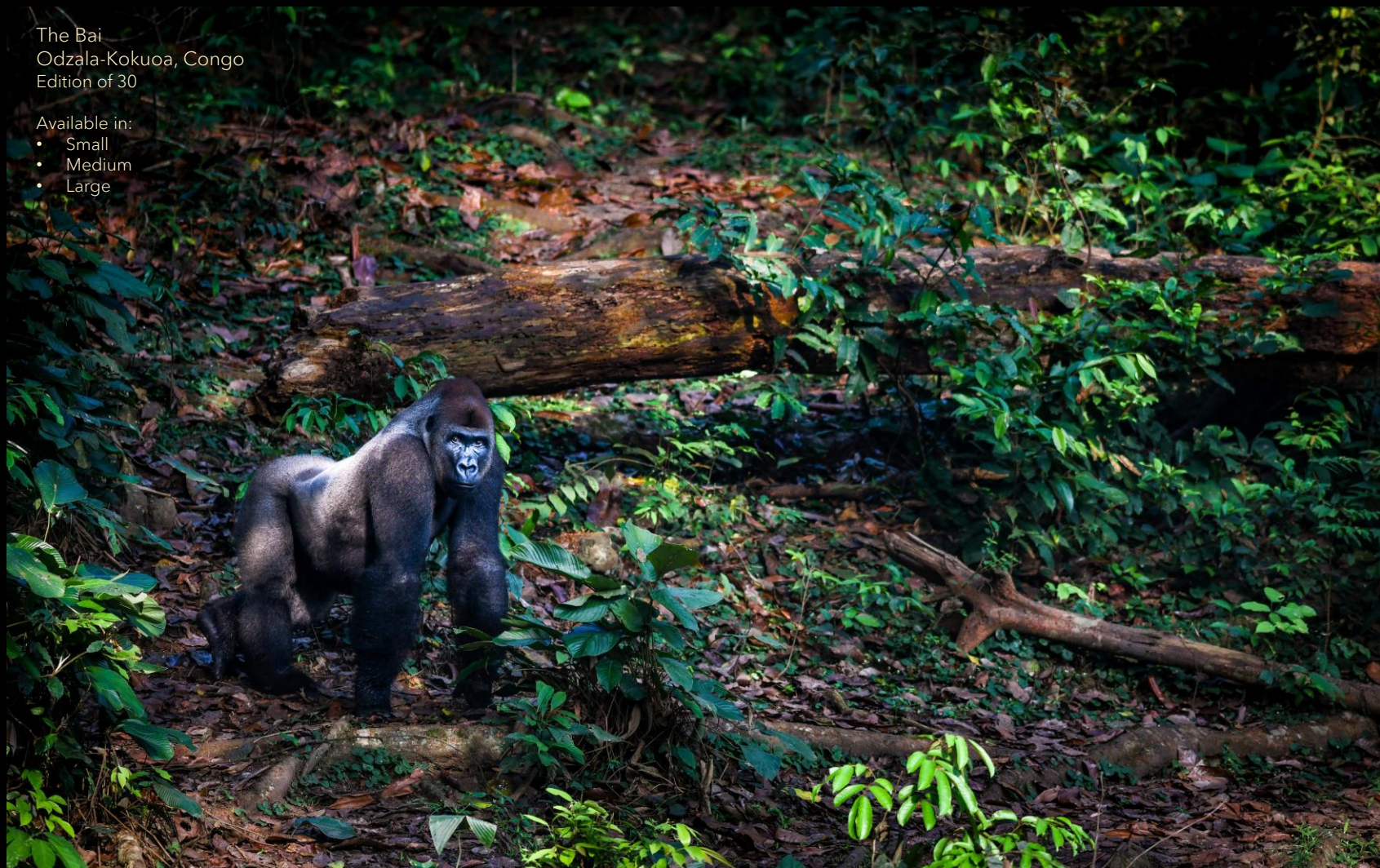
Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large

The Bai
Odzala-Kokoua, Congo
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large





Kudu
Okavango Delta, Botswana
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large



Vanishing Act
Chobe, Botswana
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large



Shadow of the Colossus
Mexican Caribbean
Edition of 30


Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large



Leviathan Wakes
The Bahamas
Edition of 30

Available in:
• Small
• Medium
• Large

A black and white underwater photograph of four dolphins swimming in a clear, sunlit ocean. The dolphins are positioned in a loose cluster, with one at the top center, one at the bottom left, one at the bottom right, and one in the middle. The water is filled with light rays and bubbles, creating a dynamic and serene atmosphere. The dolphins' sleek bodies and fins are clearly visible against the bright background.

Evening at the Bahamian Ballet
The Bahamas
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large

Rogue Squadron
Mexican Caribbean
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large





Into the Blue
Mexican Caribbean
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large

I See You
Zambia
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium



Lionheart
Valparai, India
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large





My Jungle
Kabini, India
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large

Kings and Queens Series
1 of 3: Heir Apparent

The New King of Moremi

Moremi, Botswana
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large





Kings and Queens Series
2 of 3: Loosed 'til Dawn

The Reigning Queen of Ranthambore

Ranthambore, India
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large



Kings and Queens Series
3 of 3: Step Out

The Prince of Khwai

Khwai, Botswana
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large



Wherever I May Roam
Nunavut, Canada
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large

I made a big decision a little while ago.
I don't remember what it was which probably goes to show,
That many times a simple choice may prove to be essential
Even though it might often appear inconsequential

I must have been distracted when I left my home because
Left of right I'm sure I went. (I wonder which it was!)
Anyway, I never veered: I walked in that direction
Utterly absorbed, it seems, in quiet introspection.

For no reason I can think of, I've wandered far astray.
And that is how I got to where I find myself today.

- Bill Watterson

The Snow Child
Nunavut, Canada
Edition of 30

Available in:

- Small
- Medium
- Large
- Exhibition

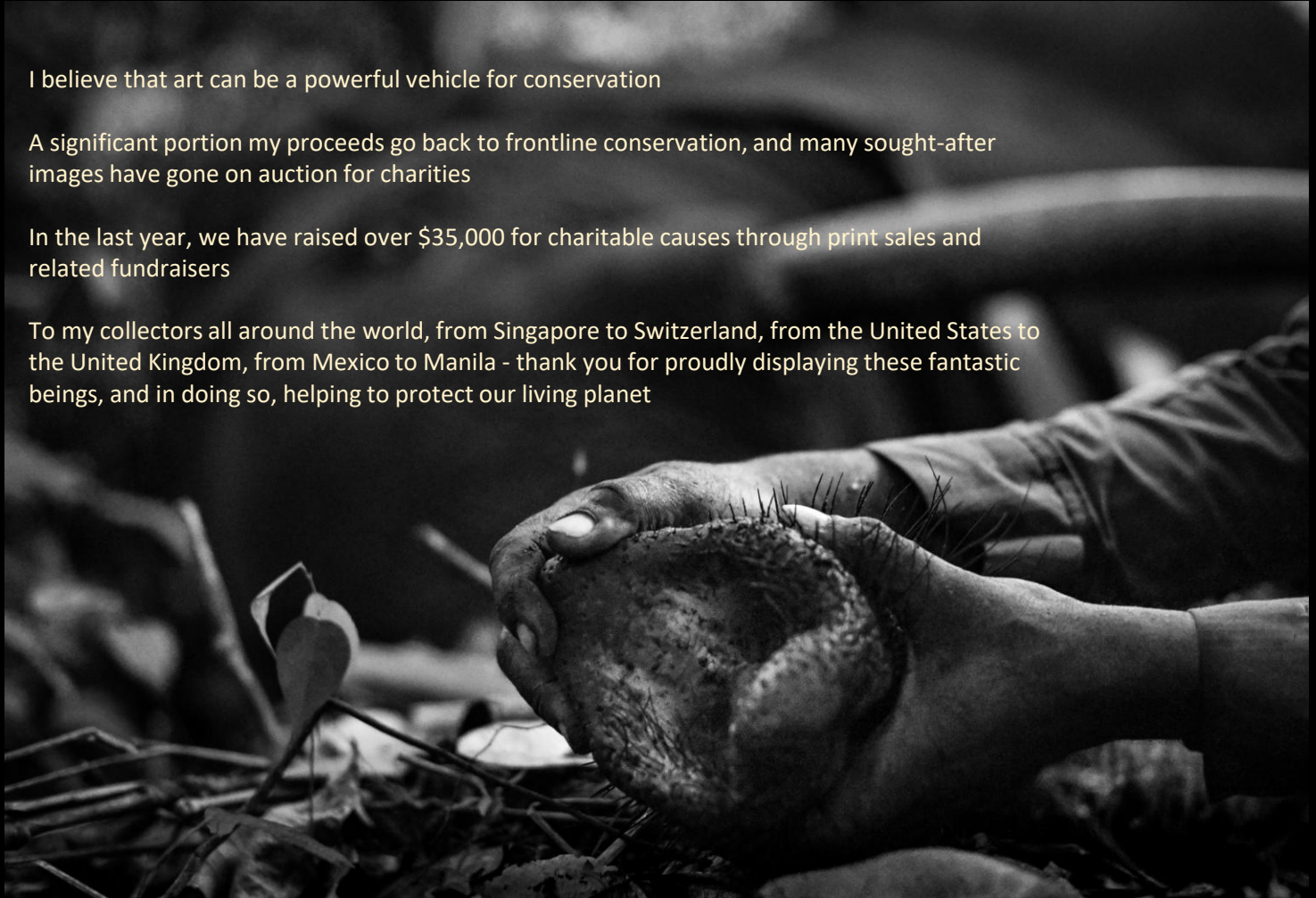


I believe that art can be a powerful vehicle for conservation

A significant portion my proceeds go back to frontline conservation, and many sought-after images have gone on auction for charities

In the last year, we have raised over \$35,000 for charitable causes through print sales and related fundraisers

To my collectors all around the world, from Singapore to Switzerland, from the United States to the United Kingdom, from Mexico to Manila - thank you for proudly displaying these fantastic beings, and in doing so, helping to protect our living planet





"The whole of science, and one is tempted to think the whole of the life of any thinking man, is trying to come to terms with the relationship between yourself and the natural world.

Why are you here, and how do you fit in, and what's it all about"

- Sir David Attenborough

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