

E-SQUARED MAGAZINE

A R T + S C I E N C E





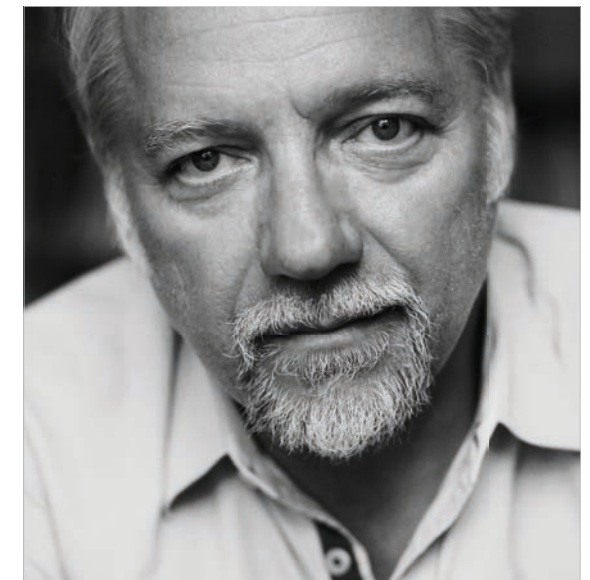
EDWARD BURTYNSKY

“[We] come from nature....there is an importance to [having] a certain reverence for what nature is because we are connected to it...if we destroy nature, we destroy ourselves.”

World renowned photographer Edward Burtynsky explores themes regarding the transformation of nature through various anthropogenic impacts. His large-scale photographs reveal the world behind the curtain of industrial incursion. Burtynsky's subjects encompass the great ages of man still in operation today from stone to minerals, oil, transportation, silicon, and so on.

In order to make visible what is otherwise invisible, Edward Burtynsky gains access to sites around the world through negotiations with corporations. His photographs of mine tailings, quarries, refineries, large-scale factories, among other localities expose the very sobering consequences of industrialism. Upon viewing, the final product appears to be that of dystopia but in verity is the reality we face as humans. Despite our daily experience being heavily comprised of the output of these industrial processes, the narrative behind the acquisition of such is rarely seen. Burtynsky states “[You] try to let the subject tell you where it is” and in his photographs he is informing us of just that. Hope and potential for a sustainable future is apparent in his work at locations such as recycling yards. Countries such as China have served as a focal point for Burtynsky though as they are a question of this sustainability.

As a result of our collective appetite for our lifestyles as humans, nature is being transformed, and at a rapid rate. Edward Burtynsky's engaging yet challenging photographs seek to reacquaint us with that which we have become detached from. As one of Canada's most respected photographers, his photographic depictions of global industrial landscapes are included in the collections of over sixty major museums around the world including the National Gallery of Canada, the Museum of Modern Art, the Guggenheim Museum in New York, the Reina Sofia Museum in Madrid, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in California.



PHOTOGRAPHER

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Left: Detail of Photograph: *Densified Oil Filters* #1. 1997. Hamilton, Ontario.
Next Spread: Photograph: *Oil Fields* #2. 2003. Belridge, California, USA.





Edward Burtynsky. Detail of Photograph: *Salt Pan #2*. 2016. Little Rann of Kutch, Gujarat, India.



Edward Burtynsky. Detail of Photograph: *Nickel Tailings #34*. 1996. Sudbury, Ontario.