

NEWS RELEASE

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Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences

Photographer James Balog Retrospective to Open at NAS

WASHINGTON — Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences announces “James Balog: Photography of the Anthropocene.” This exhibition by Colorado-based photographer James Balog (“BAY-log”) features work from the 1980s to the present. Curated by Anne Wilkes Tucker, the photos will be on view Oct. 4, 2021, through March 31, 2022, at the National Academy of Sciences.

For almost 40 years, James Balog has photographed the beauty of our natural resources as well as the devastating impact of climate change on the Earth and its inhabitants. His projects explore the environmental and biological consequences of human behavior, and has focused on interlocked events of melting glaciers, rising seas, warming oceans, polluted air, uninhabitable temperatures, and the destructive forces of increasingly ferocious hurricanes, floods, and wildfires.

As an artist, he pushes aesthetic boundaries to create simultaneously engaging and disquieting individual photographs as well as engaging series, websites, and films. His goal is to stimulate public awareness and mobilize action on behalf of the planet and its populations. Widely published and exhibited as a photographer, Balog is also a provider of data and visual evidence on climate and environmental change, particularly data generated by the Extreme Ice Survey, which he created in 2007 to document and measure the retreat of glaciers around the world. All of Balog’s photographic essays relate to his conviction that human behavior is changing our globe and that, in turn, these changes are seriously impacting humanity.

James Balog has broken new conceptual and artistic ground on one of the most important issues of our era: human modification of nature. An avid mountaineer with a graduate degree in geography and geomorphology, Balog is equally at home on a Himalayan peak or a whitewater river, the African savannah or polar icecaps. He is the founder and president of Earth Vision Institute and Extreme Ice Survey.

This exhibition features more than 35 of Balog’s photographs. It is organized into thematic sections on Survivors: Animals, Survivors: Trees, Altering Earth, On Fire, Techno Sapiens, and Vanishing Ice. It coincides with the release of his new book, *The Human Element: A Time Capsule from the Anthropocene* (Rizzoli, Fall 2021).

“James Balog: Photography of the Anthropocene” will be on exhibit at the National Academy of Sciences building, 2101 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. Although the building is closed due to the ongoing pandemic, members of the public can make reservations to visit the building to see the special exhibitions on view. Masks and proof of full COVID-19 vaccination are required (we regret that children under age 12 cannot be admitted). Balog will be in the gallery to meet visitors on Wednesday, Oct. 13. For more information and to register, visit www.cpnas.org.

Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences sponsors exhibitions, the D.C. Art Science Evening Rendezvous salon, theatrical readings, and other events that explore relationships among the arts and sciences. The National Academy of Sciences is a private, nonprofit institution that recognizes achievement in science by election to membership, and — with the National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Medicine — provides science, technology, and health policy advice to the federal government and other organizations. **(Continues on page 2)**

Press images:



Clockwise from upper left: *Copper Iceberg, Ilulissat Isfjord, Greenland, 2007, 30 x 50 inches, pigment print on archival fiber paper; Fire Plume #1, Missoula, Montana, USA, 2015, 40 x 27.5 inches, pigment print on archival fiber paper; The Old Man and the Ape, 1993, 27 x 27 inches, pigment prints on archival fiber paper; Ancient Air Bubbles Released By Melting of Greenland Ice Sheet, Greenland, 2008, 33 x 50 inches.*

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