

The National Museum of Natural History Presents the Annual Nature's Best Photography Windland Smith Rice International Awards Exhibition

A Photographic Journey from the Wild to the Walls of the Smithsonian

Open October 24, 2014, on the 2nd Floor

International Photo Exhibition Brings Nature into Focus

More than 20,000 photo entries from nature photographers in 50 countries competed for recognition at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. Within a 4,000 square foot exhibition hall, 60 large-format prints are displayed—some at nearly life-sized proportions—with two accompanying HD videos. Museum visitors are taken along on a virtual global safari and are introduced to the image-makers and their stories from behind the camera lens.

"From mountain peaks to ocean depths, viewers of all ages will witness first-hand the beauty and diversity of nature," says Nature's Best Photography Awards Director, Steve Freligh. "Through this photographic journey from the wild to the walls of the Smithsonian, we match art with science, and photographic achievement with personal storytelling. The public will not only be inspired by the exhibited images, but they may also submit their own photographs to the 2015 NBP Awards competition for a chance to be in the next exhibition displayed in the museum."

Dedicated in memory of accomplished photographer and conservation advocate, Windland Smith Rice, the Nature's Best Photography Awards program seeks to build upon her legacy of earth stewardship through the immediate and long-lasting impact of imagery. Winners of this prestigious competition were judged by a panel of experts in photography, science, and conservation. The winning photographs were taken by professionals, amateurs, and youth.

"Truly a program born from imagination, led by inspiration, and fulfilled by photographers as diverse as the images themselves," says Nature's Best Photography Chairman, Charles Veatch.

Grand Prize Winner: Tin Man Lee works as a full-time biochemical engineer with a passion for nature and photography. Originally from Hong Kong, Lee now lives in Thousand Oaks, California, not far from his office, but is out in the field as often as his job will allow. Lee feels most relaxed during his visits into the wilderness; "I totally immerse myself in nature," says Lee, "I want to awaken people's empathy and compassion for the wild so that they may see and enjoy the outdoors the way I do."

Photographer of the Year: One of the most prolific photographers of our time, Art Wolfe, of Seattle, Washington, received this year's prestigious POY Award in recognition of his extraordinary body of work over the past 40 years and the contributions he has made to natural history awareness. "Photographers everywhere are making a difference in the way we see the world and our place in it," says Wolfe. "Never stop looking: no matter where you are, there are good photographs to be made."

Youth Photographer of the Year: Jenaya Launstein from Alberta, Canada, was age 15 when she entered the competition. She balances homework with trips into nature with her family. "My dad is a fine art photographer who loves nature, and I have inherited that same passion. It is amazing to have one of my images on exhibition at the Smithsonian!"

Press images in high resolution are available upon request. More award-winners include the Winners and the Highly Honored images in 13 categories from the competition: [add link](#)

Visitors can learn more about the species in the exhibition through the Encyclopedia of Life at eol.org/info/naturesbest2013

Learn more about the annual Windland Smith Rice International Awards and enter the Nature's Best Photography competitions online at www.naturesbestphotography.com

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Media only
Kelly Carnes
202-633-2950
carnesk@si.edu



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