Nature and Environment

17 April – 26 April

Barbican Centre, Mezzanine
Photography Exhibition
Madagascar: Bois de Rose – Toby Smith
Free Entry

In February 2009 Madagascar's *coup d'etat* saw a new interim government seize power. Powerful international traders took the opportunity to intensify illegal deforestation in the remote north-east of the country by extracting rare Rosewood and Ebony for the world market. Spanning 3 expeditions, Toby Smith's ambitious project first identified logging areas then, at close proximity, documented the activity within UNESCO protected rainforests. Finally, posing as a timber buyer he worked undercover to penetrate the timber traders industry with the Environmental Investigation Agency. Subsequent evidence was presented to US Federal Agents who utilising new wildlife laws have seized goods and files to prosecute Gibson Guitars for their involvement. The ongoing investigation continues along trade routes to China and Germany and the current project has been recently published across 17 pages in GEO magazine (Germany).

Toby Smith, 27, graduated with an MA Photography from the London College of Communication in 2008. His photographic projects focus on issues of sustainability, especially that of landscape and energy. Represented by Getty Reportage his work has been featured in The Saturday Times, The Guardian, Stern Magazine as well as assignments for GEO Magazine and exhibitions of his large format images.

23 April – 8 May

Free Word Centre
Photography Exhibition
Salt Water Tears – Munem Wasif
Free Entry

"Salt Water Tears" by award winning photographer Munem Wasif shows the Satkhira region of south-east Bangladesh in this poignant exhibition. As a result of climate change and unplanned shrimp farming this region experiences erratic rainfall and a steady increase in the salinity of the water table, making safe water increasingly scarce. Where once there was fertile grazing, cows now have to swim through inundated land in search of food. A woman scoops water from a contaminated pond into a drinking pot. Changes in the environment now mean that villagers are forced to venture deeper into the Sunderbans forest to make their living and search for water, resulting in an increase in people killed by Bengal tigers. Wasif's stunning and graphic imagery brings these realities starkly into focus. These images were made for the international NGO WaterAid, which is working in partnership with the people in Satkhira to improve access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation.

In association with Water Aid

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Saturday 24th April

Ciné Lumière
20:30
Claude Lévi-Strauss - Return to the Amazon
Director: Marcelo Fortaleza Flores
Country: France; Year: 2009; Run Time: 71min
European Premiere

Claude Lévi-Strauss (b.1908) dedicated some of the most poetic passages of his influential Tristes Tropiques (1955) to the Nambikwara Indians with whom he lived in 1938. Seventy years later, Fortaleza Flores' film weaves past and present together through revisiting the same villages where the anthropologist lived and visiting others that have been contacted since. Interviews with Lévi-Strauss and Tito Wakalitesu (the only Nambikwara Indian who remembers the 1938 expedition), rare archival footage by Lévi-Strauss, scenes of Marechal Rondon's expedition (1907-1915), Rio Papagaio and the Utiarity Falls, along with the many aspects of the lives of Nambikwara Indians present both a portrayal of today and the shared reminisces of Lévi-Strauss and the Nambikwara.

Sunday 25th April

The Barbican
14.00
This Way of Life
Director: Thomas Burstyn
Country: New Zealand, Year: 2009, Run Time: 85min

'What do I do for a living? I live for a living' - Peter Karena.
In their early 30's, Peter and Colleen Karena have six kids and 50 horses with whom they roam New Zealand's hidden mountains and secret beaches. In this intimate film, shot over four years, we see the Karena family's deep connection to nature, their keen survival skills and their absolute intimacy with each other and their horses. Faced with their willingness to embrace the magic of everyday, despite more hardship than most could bear, award winning cinematographer Burstyn's profound and poetic film causes us to re-examine our attitude to life, our children and our place in the world.

Garnering a 'Special Mention' at the Berlin International Film Festival this year, Burstyn captures a near-unique and truly inspiring way of life.

Monday 26th April

The Horse Hospital
18.00
Full Frontal in Flip-Flops
Director: Don Boyd
Country: UK, Year: 1998, Run Time: 52min

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Documentary celebrating the 50th anniversary of British naturism.

Tuesday 27th April

The Horse Hospital
20.00
One Day After the 10th Day / Yek rooz pas az dahomin rooz
Director: Narges Abyar
Country: Iran, Year: 2009, Run Time: 25min

An old man who is given a camel to look after by the village people finds himself bonding with the animal. A beautiful and beautifully simple award-winning narrative. Cast: Ramtin Lavafipour, Ehsan Dadras, Mahmoud Khorsand, Emad Aghli, Jamal D

Wednesday 28th April

The Horse Hospital
18.30
Be Water, My Friend
Director: Antonio Martino
Country: Italy, Uzbekistan, Year: 2009, Run Time: 14min

“What is today is not what it was yesterday nor what it will be tomorrow.” In this sentence the despair and the resignation of the ex-fishermen of Muynaq, a little city on the ‘coast’ of the Aral Sea. The city is a ghost of its former self, and its inhabitants the victims of an unstoppable environmental disaster.

Wednesday 28th April

The Horse Hospital
19.40 approximately
Working with Water
Country: UK, Year: 2009, Run Time: 15min

Ecover and WaterAid have a three-year partnership based on a shared commitment to water resource management that will enable nearly 15,000 people in Hintalo-Wajerat region of rural Ethiopia gain sustainable access to safe water and sanitation.

Working with Water shows the positive impact of WaterAid’s project in the communities in the Hintalo Wajerat region.

In association with WaterAid and Ecover
+ Panel

Wednesday 28th April

Tricycle Theatre
20.30

The End of the Line (PG)
Director: Rupert Murray
Country: UK, Year: 2009, Length: 85min

Imagine an ocean without fish. Imagine your meals without seafood. Imagine the global consequences. The End of the Line, the first major feature documentary film revealing the impact of overfishing on our oceans, had its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival in the World Cinema Documentary Competition.

In the film we see at first hand the effects of our global love affair with fish as food. It examines the imminent extinction of bluefin tuna, brought on by increasing western demand for sushi; the impact on marine life resulting in huge overpopulation of jellyfish; and the profound implications of a future world without fish that would bring certain mass starvation.

Filmed over two years, The End of the Line follows the investigative reporter Charles Clover as he confronts politicians and celebrity restaurateurs, who exhibit little regard for the damage they are doing.

In partnership with the Jewish Community Centre for London, and Tzedek and Big Green Jewish Website.

+ Q&A with producer George Duffield and journalist Charles Clover

Thursday 29th April

Free Word Centre
20.05
Surveillance of a Camp in Spring / 春日監狩集中營
Director: James T. Hong, Yin-Ju Chen
Country: Taiwan, Year: 2009, Run Time: 7min
World Premiere

A personal survey of the natural habitat of the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp in Poland.

Saturday 1st May

British Museum, BP Theatre
12:00
A Film from My Parish - 6 Farms
Director: Tony Donoghue
Country: Ireland, Year: 2008, Run Time: 7min

Six Irish farmers work in harmony with their land, with local resources and with their community. In keeping with the sustainable nature of these farms green filmmaking was a priority. This film was shot with 2 digital stills cameras, a tripod and mini disc recorder .A bicycle was the form of transport and 95% of filming was done in daylight.

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+ Arcadia
Director: David Graham Scott
Country: UK, Year: 2009, Run Time: 10min

Catherine and Islay live on a remote estate in the Highlands of Scotland where wind turbines threaten to wipe out their traditional pastoral existence.

Saturday 1st May

Rio Cinema, Dalston
14.10
Milking the Rhino
Director: David E. Simpson
Country: USA, Year: 2008, Run Time: 83min

A ferocious kill on the Serengeti, warnings about endangered species, these cliches of nature documentaries ignore a key landscape feature: villagers just off-camera, who navigate the dangers and costs of living with wildlife.

The Maasai of Kenya and Namibia's Himba - two of Earth's oldest cattle cultures - are in the midst of upheaval. After a century of 'white man conservation', which displaced them and fuelled resentment towards the wildlife itself, they are vying to share the wildlife-tourism pie.

Community-based conservation, which tries to balance the needs of wildlife and people, has been touted as 'win-win'. The reality is more complex. Charting the collision of ancient ways with Western expectations, "Milking the Rhino" tells the intimate, hopeful and heartbreaking stories of people facing deep cultural change.

+ Panel

Wednesday 5th May

The Horse Hospital
20.35 approximately
Part of "An Evening of UK Shorts: Part 2"
The Ferryman
Director: Alexandra Mattholie
Country: UK, Year: 2009, Run Time: 23min

The Ferryman is a dreamlike portrayal of a ferry crossing on a river in Devon. Drifting slowly through chance encounters along the river and its shores, the film reveals the unexpected history of the ferryman, evoking a distinct feeling of character and place.

Friday 7th May

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Clapham Picturehouse
18:30
Sweet Crude
Director: Sandy Cioffi
Country: USA, Year: 2009, Run Time: 93min

In a small corner of Nigeria, billions of dollars of crude oil flow under the feet of a desperate people. Immense wealth and abject poverty stand in stark contrast. The environment is decimated. The people have had enough. After decades of nonviolent protest, in 2005 a new militancy was born. The Niger Delta is seething.
Sweet Crude is a documentary about the Niger Delta. It tells the story of the humanitarian, environmental and economic devastation there in the wake of 50 years of oil extraction; the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND); and the opportunity for the international community to do something about the crisis before it is too late. It also raises broader issues of oil politics, mass media agendas and the role of independent journalists in getting the truth out.

+ Panel

Saturday 8th May

British Museum, Stevenson Theatre
17.30
Working with Water
Country: UK, Year: 2009, Run Time: 15min

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Working with Water shows the positive impact of WaterAid's project in the communities in the Hintalo Wajerat region.

+ Panel

Saturday 8th May

British Museum, Stevenson Theatre
17.30
Award Ceremony
In association with the London Review of Books

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