

THIS IS A TRUE STORY.



ROM CONTEMPORARY
CULTURE

PHILANTHROPIC IMPACT REPORT

JULY 1, 2012 - MARCH 31, 2014

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Thank you for your generous support of ROM Contemporary Culture. Your investment in Canada's world museum helps connect people to their world and to each other. Since 1914, philanthropy has been at the cornerstone of the ROM. Donors like you make the Museum an indispensable resource for building community by nurturing discovery and inspiring wonder.

Your investment in ROM Contemporary Culture has had a great impact on the Museum and has enabled many meaningful activities and powerful initiatives, including world-class exhibitions such as *Observance and Memorial: Photographs from S-21, Cambodia* and curated conversations with acclaimed artists such as Antony Gormley and Sebastião Salgado.

Thank you for playing an important role in shaping and growing ROM Contemporary Culture, helping the ROM build community through its exciting public programs, engaging exhibitions and special events.

“Your generous support enables us to provide insight and inspiration to help visitors make sense of the contemporary world and connect with one another. Imaginative and eclectic in its approach, ROM Contemporary Culture explores new ideas and new technologies, raising provocative questions about the natural world, living cultures and the creative mind.” – Ann Webb, Managing Director, ROM Contemporary Culture

Message from the Managing Director

Thank you for your investment in ROM Contemporary Culture (RCC). I am thrilled to have the privilege of managing this Centre of Discovery. Over the past 21 months a rich offering of contemporary programs including lectures, exhibitions and film screenings has been presented at the ROM, thanks to your generous support.



Contemporary Culture is a broad area that offers many points of entry and consideration. As an encyclopaedic museum of natural history and world culture, the ROM provides unique opportunities to intersect ideas across disciplines and time.

ROM Contemporary Culture is a catalyst for today's leading creators and thinkers who challenge us to look at our world anew, show us historical linkages and point us to future possibilities. I am excited to share content that will be engaging, surprising and, perhaps, a little unexpected.

I look forward to building the RCC community together with ROM donors, sponsors, volunteers and external partners to connect ideas, objects, images and people as we consider our ever changing world and our connections to each other.

Thank you for your generous support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Webb".

Ann Webb
Managing Director
ROM Contemporary Culture

 @AnnMWebb

 @ROMContemporary

Ann Webb joined the ROM on January 6, 2014. Previously, she was Executive Director at the Canadian Art Foundation and Publisher of Canadian Art magazine. Ann brings more than 25 years of experience as a leader and influencer in the international arts and culture industry, including roles with the Canadian Opera Company and the Power Plant. She has managed major exhibitions, events and programs, including the Anne Lind International Program. Ann is founder of the Reel Artists Film Festival.

Engaging Exhibitions

OBSERVANCE AND MEMORIAL: PHOTOGRAPHS FROM S-21, CAMBODIA

September 22, 2012 - March 10, 2013

RCC proudly presented *Observance and Memorial: Photographs from S-21, Cambodia*, in the Roloff Beny Gallery. This important exhibition featured 103 photographic prints developed from original negatives abandoned by the Khmer Rouge in January 1979, at the S-21 prison in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. *Observance and Memorial* served to remind and inform Canadians of the tragic mass killings that occurred under the Khmer Rouge regime and how modern Cambodia is recovering from the trauma of these events more than 30 years later.

Curated by Dr. Carla Rose Shapiro from the Asian Institute at the Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto and Photo Archive Group, *Observance and Memorial* called attention to the atrocities that took place in Cambodia between 1975 and 1979, and how this specific event relates to current engagement with human rights issues. The exhibition underscored the need for historical awareness, political will and advocacy in addressing large scale human rights abuses.

Observance and Memorial raised profound questions about post-colonial legacies, imperialism, nationalism, ideological extremism, accountability and justice. Some visitors to the exhibition reacted with powerful emotions. To help resolve the intense content of the show, one part of the exhibition featured a quiet space intended for personal reflection, as suggested in the title of the exhibition, *Observance and Memorial*. In the centre of this space, an architectural sculpture suggesting a Cambodian stupa, or reliquary, allowed visitors to honour the spirits of the deceased and consider their own relationship to the photographs.

Special thanks to Ron and Gillian Graham, Susan Crocker and John Hunkin, The Honourable Bill and Cathy Graham, Deanna Horton, Sarah and Tom Milroy, and Richard and Donna Ivey for their generous support of this exhibition. This exhibition was also made possible thanks to a grant from the Roloff Beny Photography Endowment Fund.

THE ARTS MAKE OUR CITY MORE LIVABLE.

71% of Torontonians feel that the arts improve the quality of life of individuals.

Source: Toronto Arts Facts, 2014. Toronto Arts Council. <http://www.torontoartscouncil.org/ARTS-FACTS/Toronto-Arts-Facts2>.



OBSERVANCE AND MEMORIAL

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM S-21, CAMBODIA



The faces pictured in this exhibition represent 103 of the estimated two million victims of the Khmer Rouge. Photos courtesy of the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum and Photo Archive Group.



Top: Installation of Kelly Richardson's *Mariner 9*. Courtesy of the artist and Birch Libralato. Photo by Colin Davison. Bottom: Inuk elder Lukie Airut hunting walrus in the Canadian Arctic, a region warming double the global average. *1000 Years Ago Today*, 2013 © Ian Mauro.

MARINER 9

Mariner 9 transformed the ROM's Thorsell Spirit House into an immersive environment, transporting the viewer into the centre of a Martian dust storm. RCC continued its annual collaboration with the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), hosting the North American premiere of Kelly Richardson's video installation, *Mariner 9*. Presented in collaboration with TIFF's Future Projections program, admission to this unique exhibition was free.

Kelly Richardson's panoramic installation *Mariner 9* depicted Mars, as she imagines it, a few hundred years from now. Using scenery-generation software employed by the film and gaming industries, and importing imagery and technical data from past NASA missions to Mars, Richardson created a faithful artist's rendering of Martian terrain. The Martian landscape was presented as a battlefield of real and imagined spacecraft in this panoramic video installation that was both dystopian and alarmingly beautiful.

CARBON 14: CLIMATE IS CULTURE | October 19, 2013 - February 2, 2014

ROM Contemporary Culture and the Cape Farewell Foundation presented a visionary art exhibition, *Carbon 14: Climate is Culture*, curated by David Buckland and Claire Sykes. A culmination of a two-year project, the exhibition opened in the Roloff Beny Gallery and Thorsell Spirit House, as part of the *Carbon 14: Climate is Culture* Exhibition + Festival.

“Carbon 14: Climate is Culture explores themes of a changing Arctic, the health of oceans, biodiversity and extinction, sustainability and new, clean technologies; and central questions of politics, economics and ethics,” – David Buckland, Founder and International Director of Cape Farewell.

Cape Farewell began the project in November 2011, when artists, including film makers, poets and musicians, met with scientists, economists and other climate change professionals, to spark a creative dialogue on issues related to climate change. The resulting *Carbon 14: Climate is Culture* exhibition featured 13 art installations, including seven new commissions by Canadian and international artists, from various disciplines, all confronting the facts of climate change and responding in powerful and creative ways.

“Climate change is an issue, perhaps the most important issue of our generation, requiring partnerships and strong collaborators,” said Dave Ireland, Managing Director, ROM Biodiversity. “And it has to be more than just scientists leading this charge—we need artists, communicators and educators engaged. That’s why ROM’s partnership with Cape Farewell and the *Carbon 14: Climate is Culture* exhibit is so vital.”

SEBASTIÃO SALGADO: GENESIS | May 4 to September 2, 2013

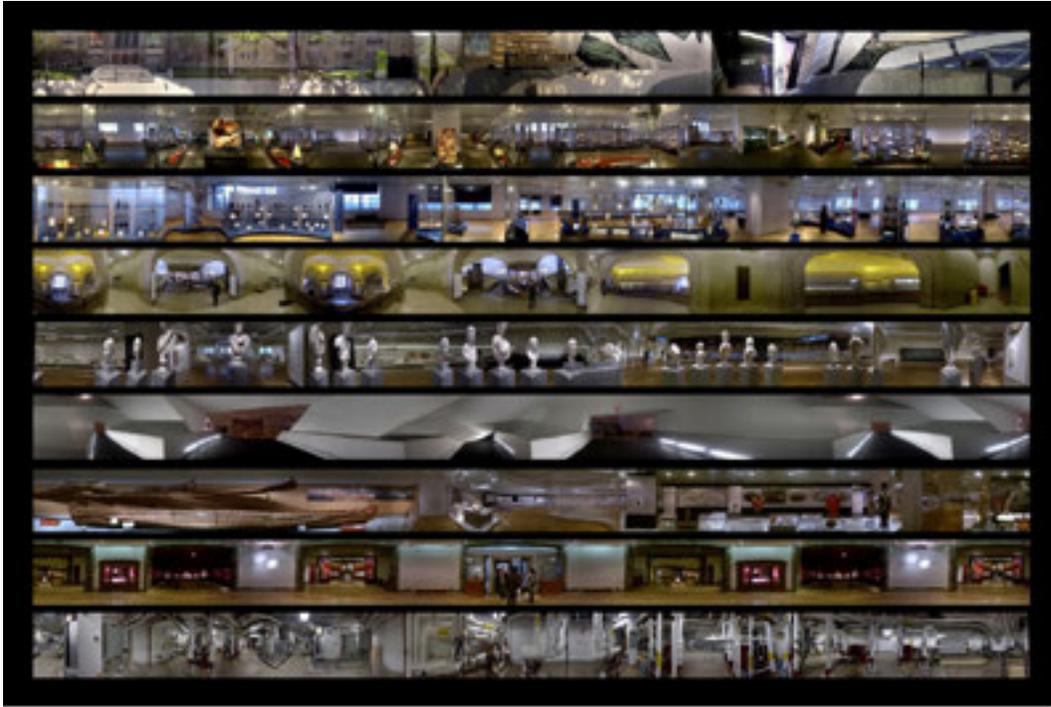
The North American premiere of *Sebastião Salgado: Genesis* was curated by Lelia Wanick. This stunning exhibition was organized by Amazonas images with the support of Vale. Presented by ROM Contemporary Culture and the Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival, *Genesis* was a primary exhibition of the festival. *Genesis* was part of a series of international exhibitions of the same name by Sebastião Salgado, one of the most important photojournalists living today.

Genesis featured 245 extraordinary images taken by Salgado during eight years of traveling to 32 different locations. The exhibition was a photographic expedition around the planet; a journey to the landscapes, seascapes, animals and peoples that have so far escaped the long, and often destructive, reach of today's world. A testimony that our planet still harbours vast and remote regions where nature reigns in silent and pristine majesty, *Genesis* aspired to share this beauty and begged observers to consider what is left of our planet, what is in peril, and what is left to save.

"We are living in an important moment for our planet and photographs are a way of sharing this historical moment," said Salgado. "Ours is a powerful planet to be seen with fresh eyes. For me, *Genesis* is a kind of respectful poem that we are writing about our natural home." The exhibition was presented in five broadly-defined ecosystems titled: *Planet South, Sanctuaries, Africa, Northern Spaces* and *Amazonia and Pantanal*. The ROM was one of few institutions around the world where this new body of work was presented for the first time.



Left: Iceberg between Paulet Island and the South Shetland Islands on the Weddell Sea. Antarctic Peninsula © 2005 Sebastião Salgado. Courtesy of Amazonas images. Right: Sebastião Salgado. Opposite: *The Entire City Project*: Royal Ontario Museum. © 2014 Michael Awad.



THE ENTIRE CITY PROJECT: ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM | May 3–September 28, 2014

To mark the ROM's Centennial, Toronto-based, award-winning artist and architect Michael Awad created a stunning installation titled *The Entire City Project: Royal Ontario Museum*. Awad has captured every square inch of the ROM in his distinct photographic style and this is the first time he has gone behind-the-scenes to photograph an entire public institution. Displayed in the Roloff Beny Gallery, the exhibition was part of the Scotiabank Contact Photography Festival.

The Entire City Project: Royal Ontario Museum is the result of a year-long commission and presents the ROM using Awad's signature technique of continuous horizontal bands of imagery. Awad's photographs capture the ROM's vastness from the unseen treasures that reside in vaults behind the scenes to our gallery spaces, DNA lab, storage vaults, workspaces and more. Fittingly, the exhibition launched on ROM Revealed Weekend, which celebrated the Museum's Centennial with free general admission, along with a rare chance to go behind the gallery walls and see inside the entire Museum.

This exhibition is part of Awad's ambitious undertaking *The Entire City Project*, in which he is working to capture all aspects of Toronto's daily life. "The ROM is the single most important fragment of *The Entire City Project* to date," said Michael Awad. "The ROM is like a village, and at any given moment, there are hundreds of people doing things that no one sees. This project brings those people and their work to life, with thousands of feet of images of over a hundred of spaces in the Museum." *The Entire City Project: Royal Ontario Museum* was part of the opening night of the ROM's Friday Night Live series on May 2, 2014.

Lectures

THE EVA HOLTBY LECTURE ON CONTEMPORARY CULTURE

An annual program highlight, the Eva Holtby Lecture on Contemporary Culture brings powerful voices to the Museum to discuss provocative and engaging contemporary ideas. The Eva Holtby Lecture has grown to become a highly-anticipated yearly event, focusing on relevant cultural issues of international scope, and attracting the world's most fascinating speakers. Eva Holtby Lectures are supported through the generosity of the Holtby Family.

INGRID BETANCOURT | December 10, 2012

Ingrid Betancourt delivered the 7th Annual Eva Holtby Lecture at the ROM. Born in Bogotá and raised in France, Betancourt returned to Colombia at the age of 32 to campaign as a candidate in the Colombian presidential election. Her goal was to become the political leader of a country that was slowly being affected by terrorism, violence, fear and a pervasive sense of hopelessness. In 2002, she was abducted by the *Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia* (FARC) and spent the next six and a half years in the depths of the jungle as a prisoner.

Betancourt's lecture at the ROM, which shared the name of her book, *Even Silence Has an End*, was her deeply personal and moving account of that time. She tracked her metamorphosis, sharing how she was able to move through the pain of the moment and find a place of serenity in the routines she established for herself—including listening to her mother and two children broadcast to her over the radio, and daily prayer. Set free in 2008 by the Colombian army, Betancourt now draws attention to the plight of hostages and victims of terrorism throughout the world.

Moderated by Dr. Gaventa from the Coady Institute and St. Francis Xavier University, the event explored RCC's past annual theme of War and Conflict, coinciding with the exhibition *Observance and Memorial: Photographs from S21, Cambodia*. Deeply insightful and moving, Betancourt shared powerful teachings on resilience, resistance and faith.

ANTONY GORMLEY | November 20, 2013

U.K. artist Antony Gormley delivered the 8th annual Eva Holtby Lecture. In *Art as Survival*, the London-born Gormley explored the central theme of art and creativity in human life. Gormley is widely acclaimed for his sculptures, installations and public art works, including *The Angel of the North*, which investigates the relationship between the human body and space. The artist looked at his own work and historical objects in consideration of art as a tool for survival in a time of global climate change. This fascinating talk was moderated by art critic and journalist Sarah Milroy, former editor of *Canadian Art* magazine, and contributor for the *Globe and Mail*.



Antony Gormley *Domain Field*, 2003 4.76 mm square section stainless steel bar. Various sizes: 287 elements, derived from moulds of local inhabitants of Newcastle-Gateshead, aged 2.5-84 years. Installation view, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, UK. Commission for BALTIC, Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead. Photograph by Jerry Hardman-Jones, Leeds © the artist.

Antony Gormley was born in London in 1950. He has developed the potential opened up by sculpture since the 1960s through a critical engagement with both his own body and those of others in a way that confronts fundamental questions of where human being stands in relation to nature and the cosmos. Gormley continually strives to identify the space of art as a space of becoming; in which new behaviours, thoughts and feelings can arise. He won the Turner Prize in 1994 and was made an Officer of the British Empire in 1997. Since 2003 he has been a member of the Royal Academy of Arts and since 2007 a British Museum Trustee.

This lecture took place in conjunction with Cape Farewell's *Carbon 14: Climate is Culture* Exhibition + Festival, a four-month program of satellite events, including music, performing arts, talks and special events. In 2005, Gormley accompanied Cape Farewell on its third arctic fieldwork expedition to Tempelfjorden, just north of the 79th parallel.

Public Programming

THE ENTIRE CITY PROJECT: ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

RCC Managing Director Ann Webb interviewed artist Michael Awad on March 19, 2014, as part of the ROM Centennial Celebration Members Event. More than 300 ROM Members had a sneak peek of Awad's exhibition, *The Entire City Project: Royal Ontario Museum*.

OBSERVANCE AND MEMORIAL: PHOTOGRAPHS FROM S-21 CAMBODIA

In conjunction with Holocaust Education Week, the ROM held eight days of educational programs and presented leading international voices and discussion panel to raise historical and cultural awareness from November 1-8, 2012. This week of programming was presented in conjunction with the exhibition *Observance and Memorial: Photographs from S-21, Cambodia*.

A keynote address was delivered by Robert Petit on November 8, 2012. In his former role as International Co-Prosecutor for the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, which sought rulings against leaders of the Khmer Rouge, Petit was deeply embedded in the transitional justice movement. He shared stories of his work in Cambodia, and his commitment to generating an accurate list of all victims



Artist Michael Awad with Ann Webb, Managing Director of ROM Contemporary Culture.



Sebastião Salgado's *Genesis* exhibition.

of the S-21 prison, which has been used as key evidence in the trials. RCC also held a special symposium to deepen understanding of the complex issues raised by *Observance and Memorial* on November 10, 2012. Both local and international experts participated and the symposium was free to the public.

The ROM presented a screening of *Enemies of the People* (2009) the story by investigative journalist Thet Sambath and his mission to uncover the leaders of the Khmer Rouge, on January 24, 2013. A panel discussion called *Art Examines Atrocity* was also co-presented with Human Rights Watch Canada on March 6, 2013. This fascinating dialogue explored how art can help people understand and heal from atrocities such as the Cambodian genocide, as well as other human rights tragedies.

SEBASTIÃO SALGADO: GENESIS

The *Genesis* exhibition launched RCC's 2013/14 theme of Climate Change (#ROMClimate). Throughout the year, RCC partnered with ROM Biodiversity to encourage conversation and provide insight on this contemporary issue. RCC continues to look at the relationship between nature and culture through the lens of climate change, asking: *How does the landscape change a culture? How does culture change a landscape?*

"ROM Biodiversity and ROM Contemporary Culture are natural partners, as was evidenced in 2012 with the co-produced exhibit *Elegy by Deborah Samuel*," said Dave Ireland, Managing Director, ROM Biodiversity. "These two ROM Centres of Discovery bridge the gap between art and science and validate our new model of engagement by showcasing a diverse range of exhibits, galleries and especially programming at the ROM."



EARTH MONTH YOUTH SUMMIT | April 27, 2013

Earth Day Canada and ROM Biodiversity joined forces to present the Earth Month Youth Summit, connecting 250 environmental youth leaders from across the province in a day of interactive workshops at the ROM. Hosted by environmental hero Simon Jackson and featuring keynote presentations by Sebastião Salgado and former Canadian astronaut, Dr. Roberta Bondar.

SEBASTIÃO SALGADO ON GENESIS | May 2, 2013

In this special public lecture, Sebastião Salgado discussed his photographic essay eight years in the making, followed by a preview of *Genesis*. The exhibition also featured a TweetGarden Project by digital media artist Faisal Anwar, created with the technological collaboration of Randy Horton. The TweetGarden was a screen-based tree that grew leaves with each tweet. Visitors interacted by tweeting using the hashtag #ROMClimate and reading others' responses.

CURATED CONVERSATIONS-A DEFINITION OF AWE | May 28, 2013

Curated Conversations are built on the idea that meaningful dialogue is not only satisfying, but also has the potential to be life-changing. ROM Friends of Contemporary Culture and special guests gathered for an after-hours tour and curated conversation. Following a private tour of *Genesis*, guests mingled and exchanged perspectives.

GAME-CHANGING DISCUSSION WITH DEEPALI DEWAN AND DOUG CURRIE | June 25, 2013

What do black flies and photographs have to do with climate change and the landscape? ROM curators Dr. Deepali Dewan and Dr. Doug Currie presented their ideas and invited the audience to draw their own conclusions. This fascinating discussion brought together two experts from world culture and natural history to discuss a contemporary issue from different perspectives.

NEIGHBOURHOOD NATURE WATCH | August 24, 2013

During the intense light of a summer afternoon a group of determined photographers, inspired by the ROM's Sebastião Salgado's photography exhibit *Genesis*, strolled through the natural beauty surrounding the ROM. Neighbourhood Nature Watch was a Museum workshop that included a tour of *Genesis* for inspiration, followed by a digital photography tutorial and a two-hour nature walk.

CARBON 14: CLIMATE IS CULTURE

THE CHANGING ARCTIC LANDSCAPE | January 26, 2014

The Changing Arctic Landscape was a day of thought-provoking discussions at the ROM. It was presented by RCC, the Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation and the Cape Farewell Foundation. Acclaimed environmental, cultural and human rights advocate Shelia Watt-Colutier, leading Canadian climate scientist Dr. Andrew Weaver, CEO and President of Baffinland Tom Paddon, and Inuit singer-songwriter Susan Aglukark lead a series of discussions exploring the impact of climate change on Inuit communities in Canada. Topics included Climate Change Science and Culture, Arctic Development, and Northern Health and Housing.



Opposite: Scenes from 2013 Earth Month Youth Forum. Bottom: In conversation with Sebastião Salgado.

Funds

ROM CONTEMPORARY CULTURE IS INFORMED BY AN EXPERT ADVISORY BOARD THAT SHAPES CONTENT AND PROGRAMMING.

We are grateful to the following individuals who generously offer their time and knowledge: Co-chair Wende Cartwright (Savira & Associates); Co-chair Susan Crocker (St. Francis Xavier University); Steven Casey (KPMB Architects); Geoffrey Dawe (GDC); Siamak Hariri (Hariri Pontarini Architects); Pamela Hughes (Blakes' Securities Group); James C. Irving (Brunswick News Inc.); Christopher Jamroz (Garda Cash Logistics); Alfredo Romano (Castlepoint Group); Sandy Skotnicki (Women's College Hospital, St. Michael's Hospital); and Rob Sandolowich (Westbury National Show Systems Ltd).

THE ACTIVITIES OF ROM CONTEMPORARY CULTURE ARE GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY A COMMUNITY OF DONORS WHO INVEST IN THE FOLLOWING FUNDS:

- Eva Holtby Endowment Fund
- Institute for Contemporary Culture Endowment Fund
- Roloff Beny Endowment Fund
- Roloff Beny Photography Endowment Fund
- R. Samuel McLaughlin Foundation Fund
- Suzanne and Edwin Goodman Fund

[Thank you again for your generous support. For more information about ROM Contemporary Culture or this report, please contact:](#)

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