

Animalscapes

A Photographic Exhibition by Brad Hill



Natural Art Images
The Photography of Brad Hill

Animalscapes

Dates: February 20 – April 30, 2016

Opening Reception: Friday, February 26, 7-10 PM

Location: Robinson's Camera foto source; 1228 9th Ave SE, Calgary, AB

Artist's Statement:

The photography of wild, free-ranging, and completely unrestrained animals can take many forms. Some love the character, intimacy, and the thrill of close proximity experienced and captured with wildlife portraiture. My favourite expression of the beauty of wildlife is found when the animal is shown within the environment or landscape which it prefers to inhabit – in an image type I call the Animalscape.

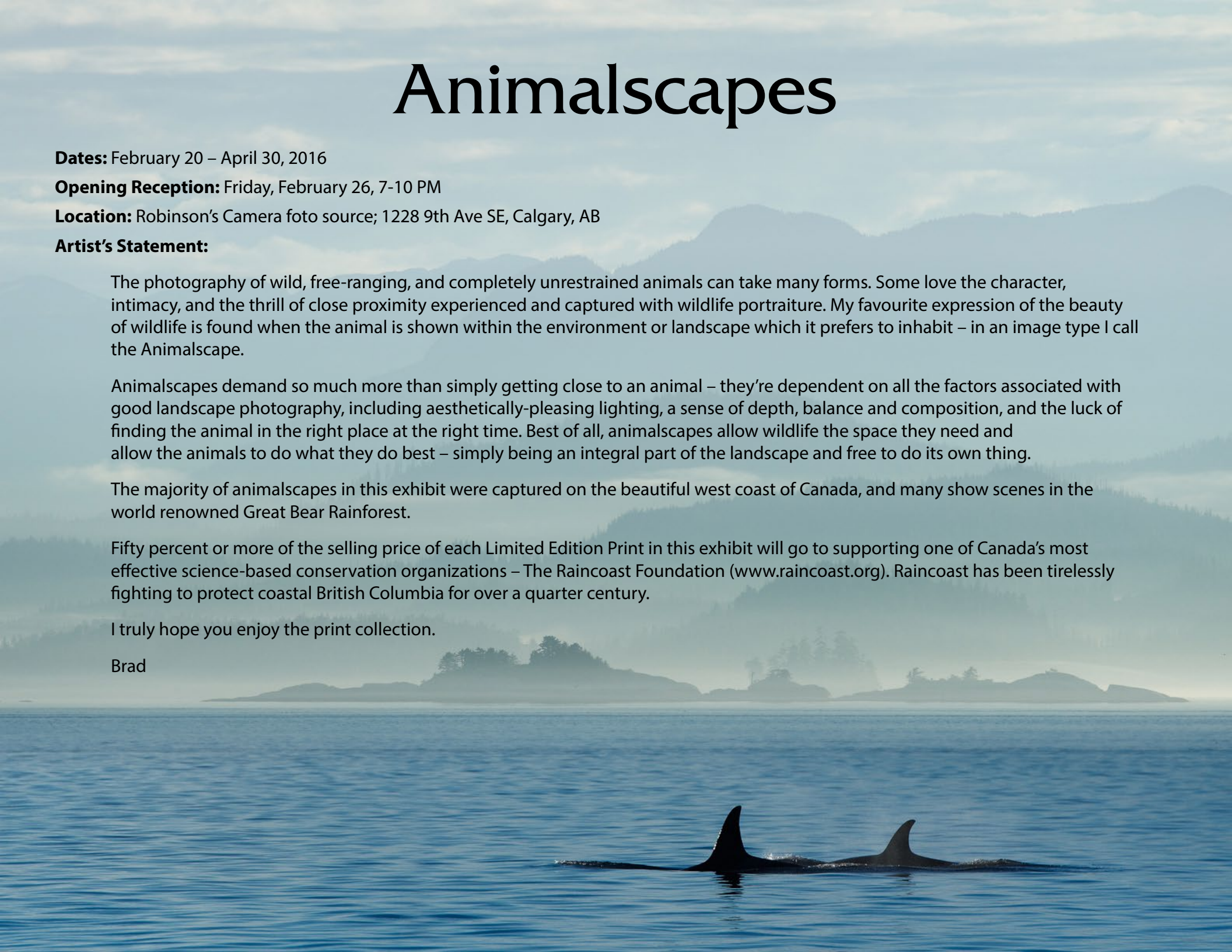
Animalscapes demand so much more than simply getting close to an animal – they're dependent on all the factors associated with good landscape photography, including aesthetically-pleasing lighting, a sense of depth, balance and composition, and the luck of finding the animal in the right place at the right time. Best of all, animalscapes allow wildlife the space they need and allow the animals to do what they do best – simply being an integral part of the landscape and free to do its own thing.

The majority of animalscapes in this exhibit were captured on the beautiful west coast of Canada, and many show scenes in the world renowned Great Bear Rainforest.

Fifty percent or more of the selling price of each Limited Edition Print in this exhibit will go to supporting one of Canada's most effective science-based conservation organizations – The Raincoast Foundation (www.raincoast.org). Raincoast has been tirelessly fighting to protect coastal British Columbia for over a quarter century.

I truly hope you enjoy the print collection.

Brad





Field Notes:

This shot is one of my all-time favourite animalscapes. I captured it during a misty and moody morning during the autumn of 2011 in British Columbia's spectacular Great Bear Rainforest. We had been watching a female grizzly and her cub digging for roots along an edge of a river at the end of a long coastal inlet. The sun had just risen and the beams of light were beginning to slowly reveal the many layers of lichen and fog-laden trees that make up the rainforest. The scene was changing literally second-by-second as the mist slowly drifted through.

I shot dozens of images of the scene but this one – with the mother bear silhouetted and rim-lit while standing along the edge of the river bank and with the background forest being gently kissed by the soft light – is by far my favourite. To me it's the absolute *essence of the Great Bear*.

Title: *The Ethereal Great Bear Rainforest*

Location: Great Bear Rainforest - central BC Coast, Canada

Technical Field Notes:

Nikon D7000; Nikkor 70-200mm f2.8 VRII; 1/400s @ f6.3

Medium:

Giclée print on Epson Premium Luster Photographic Paper; archival mounted; matted, framed

Print size (unframed): 32" x 19"

Framed size: Approx. 44" x 31"

Print Series: *Photographer's Collection* Limited Edition Print

Edition Notes:

#1 of 2. Hand-numbered and signed, plus accompanied by Certificate of Authenticity

Production Notes:

Full conservation-grade, museum-quality mounting and framing. Tru Vue Museum Glass (99% UV Protection, Conservation Grade, Anti-Reflective coating); Crescent Rag mat Antiquarian 100% Cotton Conservation Matboard. Fade & Bleed resistant, acid-free, lignin-free, buffered to an alkaline pH.

Meets all standards set by the Fine Art Trade Guild.

Price: \$3500 CAD

Portion donated to Raincoast: \$2000 CAD



Field Notes:

I captured this scene near the northern tip of Vancouver Island during a foggy morning in August of 2014. At the time we had been hearing a few humpback whales around our boat, but a mix of thick fog and smoke from forest fires reduced our visibility to zero and forced us to stop and just sit in the water. I had high hopes that when the fog and smoke finally lifted that we'd have some nice scenes to work with, but as this spectacular and multi-layered scene slowly revealed itself to me I was simply awestruck. When a cooperative humpback whale swam into the scene and "spouted off" in the perfect spot...well...you know you're having a lucky day when...

Title: *One Whale of a Morning!*

Location:

Johnstone Strait Region, northern Vancouver Island, BC, Canada

Technical Field Notes:

Nikon D800e; Nikkor 400mm f2.8G VR; 1/800s @ f11

Medium: Giclée print transferred to canvas, framed

Print size (unframed): 32" x 21"

Framed size: Approx. 33.5" x 22.5"

Print Series: *Animalscape Series* Limited Edition Print

Edition Notes:

#1 of 10. Hand-numbered and signed, plus accompanied by Certificate of Authenticity

Price: \$1500 CAD

Portion donated to Raincoast: \$750 CAD



Title: *Dwarfed*

Location: Khutzeymateen Inlet – northern BC coast, Canada

Technical Field Notes:

Nikon D800; Nikkor 70-200mm f2.8 VR II, 1/200s @ f7.1

Medium: Giclée print transferred to canvas, framed

Print size (unframed): 24" x 36"

Framed size: Approx. 25.5" x 37.5"

Print Series: *Animalscape Series* Limited Edition Print

Edition Notes:

#1 of 10. Hand-numbered and signed, plus accompanied by Certificate of Authenticity

Price: \$1500 CAD

Portion donated to Raincoast: \$750 CAD

Field Notes:

Unless you've spent some time in coastal rainforests it's hard to appreciate just how BIG everything is – especially the trees that make up that rainforest. We had been watching this adult grizzly bear wade along the shoreline at the head of the Khutzeymateen Inlet when it decided to walk up a natural "ramp" and into the forest. I had been shooting with a long telephoto lens and, consequently, most of the time I had been watching a much narrower view of the scene through my camera's viewfinder. Just before I shot this image I put my camera down and was instantly struck by how the massive trees in the background completely dwarfed the bear – and just how beautiful the wider scene was. Fortunately I had my "animalscape" camera set-up (at the time a Nikon D800 and 70-200mm f2.8 VR II lens) handy and was able to quickly change gears (and gear!) and capture this image.



Field Notes:

The Great Bear Rainforest is both a magical and biologically rich place. But, it's called a rainforest for a reason – not only is it almost always wet but, being amazingly dense and jungle-like, it's also tremendously difficult to travel through. Even walking the streams is akin to running an obstacle course! So when this beautiful adult Spirit Bear casually "strolled" down this stream – and up and over huge logs like they weren't there – all the while keeping its eyes focused on the stream and any fish it might contain, it was more than a little humbling. On this shot I got extremely lucky and managed to release the shutter when the head and back of the bear were illuminated with the only beam of sunlight that managed to find its way through the thick cloud cover.

Title: *Conquering the Obstacle Course*

Location: Great Bear Rainforest – central BC Coast, Canada

Technical Field Notes:

Nikon D3s; Nikkor 400mm f2.8G VR; 1/500s @ f5

Medium: Giclée print transferred to canvas, framed

Print size (unframed): 21" x 16"

Framed size: Approx. 22.5" x 17.5"

Print Series: *Animalscape Series* Limited Edition Print

Edition Notes:

#1 of 10. Hand-numbered and signed, plus accompanied by Certificate of Authenticity

Price: \$900 CAD

Portion donated to Raincoast: \$450 CAD



Title: *The Sentinel*

Location: Khutzeymateen Inlet – northern BC coast, Canada

Technical Field Notes:

Nikon D3s; Nikkor 400mm f2.8G VR; 1/1250s @ f5.6

Medium: Giclée print transferred to canvas, framed

Print size (unframed): 17" x 25"

Framed size: Approx. 18.5" x 26.5"

Print Series: *Animalscape Series* Limited Edition Print

Edition Notes:

#2 of 10. Hand-numbered and signed, plus accompanied by Certificate of Authenticity

Price: \$1100 CAD

Portion donated to Raincoast: \$550 CAD

Field Notes:

While the Khutzeymateen Inlet on the northern BC coast is primarily known for its grizzlies, there's a whole lot more to the Khutzeymateen than bears! The area teems with birdlife in all shapes and sizes, deer, otters, mink, seals, coastal wolves, and more! I nabbed this image as we were traveling into the estuary at the head of the inlet – I'm not sure what made me look up so high (it WAS a grizzly photo tour after all, and it's pretty rare to see a griz hundreds of feet up a tree!), but when I witnessed this scene unfolding (as the mist was rising and the sun began filtering through and kissing the tree and the eagle) I have to admit that for a few moments bears WEREN'T on my mind!



Title: *The Great Bear Gauntlet*

Location: Great Bear Rainforest – central BC Coast, Canada

Technical Field Notes:

Nikon D800e; Nikkor 70-200mm f4 VR; 0.4s @ f10

Medium: Giclée print transferred to canvas, framed

Print size (unframed): 41" x 23"

Framed size: Approx. 42.5" x 24.5"

Print Series: *Animalscape Series* Limited Edition Print

Edition Notes:

#1 of 10. Hand-numbered and signed, plus accompanied by Certificate of Authenticity

Price: \$2000 CAD

Portion donated to Raincoast: \$1000 CAD

Field Notes:

The rare white-phased form of the black bear – the Spirit Bear – has become a symbol of the rarity and uniqueness of a tract of rainforest on the rugged British Columbia coast that is known as the Great Bear Rainforest. There's a lot of forest in BC, but in all of history there's only been one forest that has – along with all its inhabitants – developed in such a way so that all the conditions necessary to produce the unique life form we know as the Spirit Bear are met. When we look at a Spirit Bear we see something rarer than the bear itself – we see a situation where literally millions of years of evolution have produced a unique outcome – one not repeated anywhere else on planet earth.

Seeing any Spirit Bear is a special and amazing experience; watching one intently fishing in a scene like this is...well...indescribable! Hopefully future generations – and the photographers from future generations – will have the opportunity to witness such a scene for themselves.

If you're wondering about the title of this image – put yourself in a spawning pink salmon's position: after traveling the open ocean for two years you have to travel up over countless obstacles to get to your natal stream before you can complete your lifecycle. You turn a corner in the stream and you see rapids with only one easily navigable route through it. And, sure enough, there's a white bear there intently watching for any salmon daring enough to pass by him (or, in this case, her). Curses!

Title: *The Town Crier*

Location:

Johnstone Strait Region, northern Vancouver Island, BC, Canada

Technical Field Notes:

Nikon D4; Nikkor 400mm f2.8G VR; 1/1600s @ f6.3

Medium: Giclée print transferred to canvas, framed

Print size (unframed): 17" x 26"

Framed size: Approx. 18.5" x 27.5"

Print Series: *Wildlife Series* Limited Edition Print

Edition Notes:

#1 of 25. Hand-numbered and signed, plus accompanied by Certificate of Authenticity

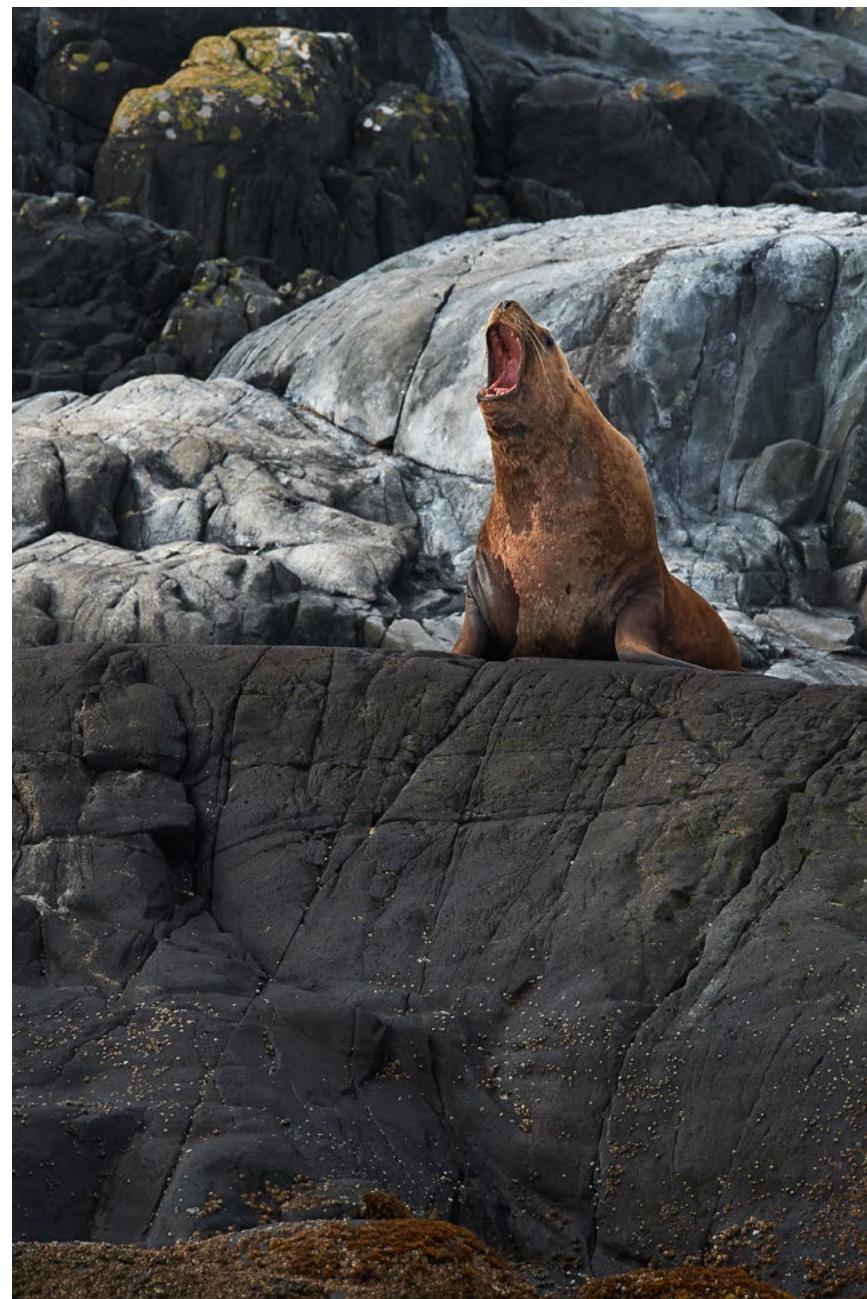
Price: \$800 CAD

Portion donated to Raincoast: \$400 CAD

Field Notes:

This lone Steller Sea Lion was positioned high above the water on a small island near the northern tip of Vancouver Island. For some reason this guy separated himself from a nearby group of lions. When he sat up, opened his mouth and let loose he came across as the perfect lookout sentry. The only problem with this take on the scene is that save for one loud and impolite belch, this guy was doing no vocalizing at all. So any analogy with it being a sentry – or including a reference to its similarity to a howling wolf – is pretty limited in its applicability!

A few things drew my eye to this scene. The first was the fascinating alternating coloured bands of rock. When the sea lion opened its mouth the red/pink colour inside was amazingly strong and compelling. I also loved the overall harmonious colour palette of the scene – and that was compliments solely of Ma Nature!





Field Notes:

I captured this animalscape during my first of many trips to the Johnstone Strait region near the northern tip of Vancouver Island. The region is known for its biological richness, which partly manifests itself in the form of a large number of resident Killer Whales and other aquatic mammals, including Humpback Whales, Gray Whales, various dolphin and porpoise species, sea otters, and both Steller Sea Lions and Harbor Seals. But the Killer Whales are the "hallmark" species of wildlife of the region and I hoped to create at least one image that captured what I considered to be the "essence" of the region. I think this may be that image.

Title: *Misty Morning Cruise*

Location:

Johnstone Strait Region, northern Vancouver Island, BC, Canada

Technical Field Notes:

Nikon D700, Nikkor 400mm f2.8G VR; 1/1600s @ f5

Medium: Giclée print transferred to canvas, framed

Print size (unframed): 28" x 17"

Framed size: Approx. 29.5" x 18.5"

Print Series: *Animalscape Series* Limited Edition Print

Edition Notes:

#2 of 10. Hand-numbered and signed, plus accompanied by Certificate of Authenticity

Price: \$1000 CAD

Portion donated to Raincoast: \$500 CAD

Title: *Contemplation*

Location: Khutzeymateen Inlet – northern BC coast, Canada

Technical Field Notes:

Nikon D3s; Nikkor 400mm f2.8G VR; 1/250s @ f5.6

Medium: Giclée print transferred to canvas, framed

Print size (unframed): 24" x 16"

Framed size: Approx. 25.5" x 17.5"

Print Series: *Wildlife Series* Limited Edition Print

Edition Notes:

#1 of 25. Hand-numbered and signed, plus accompanied by Certificate of Authenticity

Price: \$800 CAD

Portion donated to Raincoast: \$400 CAD



Field Notes:

Spend some quality time with bears that have been treated with respect and dignity throughout their lives (and haven't been the victim of human mismanagement or abuse) and one thing becomes abundantly clear in a hurry – they are gentle, intelligent, and fully sentient beings. I captured this image of a young male grizzly that was in a particularly contemplative mood late one evening in the spring of 2011. Our full interaction with this bear lasted probably ten minutes, and during the entire time he never once showed any sign of alarm or discomfort. There's little I wouldn't give to know what he was pondering as he watched us watch him.



Title: *An August Oceanscape*

Location:

Johnstone Strait Region, northern Vancouver Island, BC, Canada

Technical Field Notes:

Nikon D800e; Nikkor 70-200mm f4 VR; 1/400s @ f8

Medium: Giclée print transferred to canvas, framed

Print size (unframed): 41" x 23"

Framed size: Approx. 42.5" x 24.5"

Print Series: *Animalscape Series* Limited Edition Print

Edition Notes:

#1 of 10. Hand-numbered and signed, plus accompanied by Certificate of Authenticity

Price: \$1800 CAD

Portion donated to Raincoast: \$900 CAD

Field Notes:

I captured this expansive animalscape on a glorious morning in August of 2013. I went on this shoot with a bit of a different mind-set than normal – I was determined to resist the urge of almost all wildlife photographers to always "get closer". So I intentionally made myself "back off" (at least in focal length) and shoot "wider" animalscape shots. My desire to shoot more 'scapes on this trip was mostly a result of past history – I knew the area we were visiting had very abundant wildlife and they often situated themselves in front of jaw-dropping natural backdrops. I know of no other region that so regularly delivers up all the factors needed for great animalscapes.

We intentionally sought out this location on this fine morning. We knew the small rocky islands were often blanketed with soft mist – and we also knew that the amount of feed in the water often attracted Humpback Whales that normally feed by active lunging or using a complex behaviour known as bubble-net feeding. What we hadn't counted on was encountering a humpback that had developed its own laid-back way of feeding – this particular whale simply floated vertically with its mouth wide open and passively drifted around...all the while enjoying a lazy brunch!



Field Notes:

What I personally like about this shot is that it's so darned typical of what you see every time you look in a different direction within the Great Bear Rainforest. I shot this while leading a photo tour into the region in late September of 2012. I was accompanied by 6 other photographers at the time. No one else even raised a camera at this scene. Why? Well, they were focused on something else – just off the left side of the frame shown here a female grizzly and her 3-year old cub were playfully sparring! Unfortunately they were in deep grass and getting a clear shot at them wasn't possible. So I opted to pass on the bears and "settle" with this scene! For some reason I didn't feel particularly short-changed!

Title: *Eagles in the Mist*

Location: Great Bear Rainforest – central BC Coast, Canada

Technical Field Notes:

Nikon D4; Nikkor 70-200mm f2.8VR II; 1/160s @ f8

Medium: Giclée print transferred to canvas, framed

Print size (unframed): 31" x 17"

Framed size: Approx. 32.5" x 18.5"

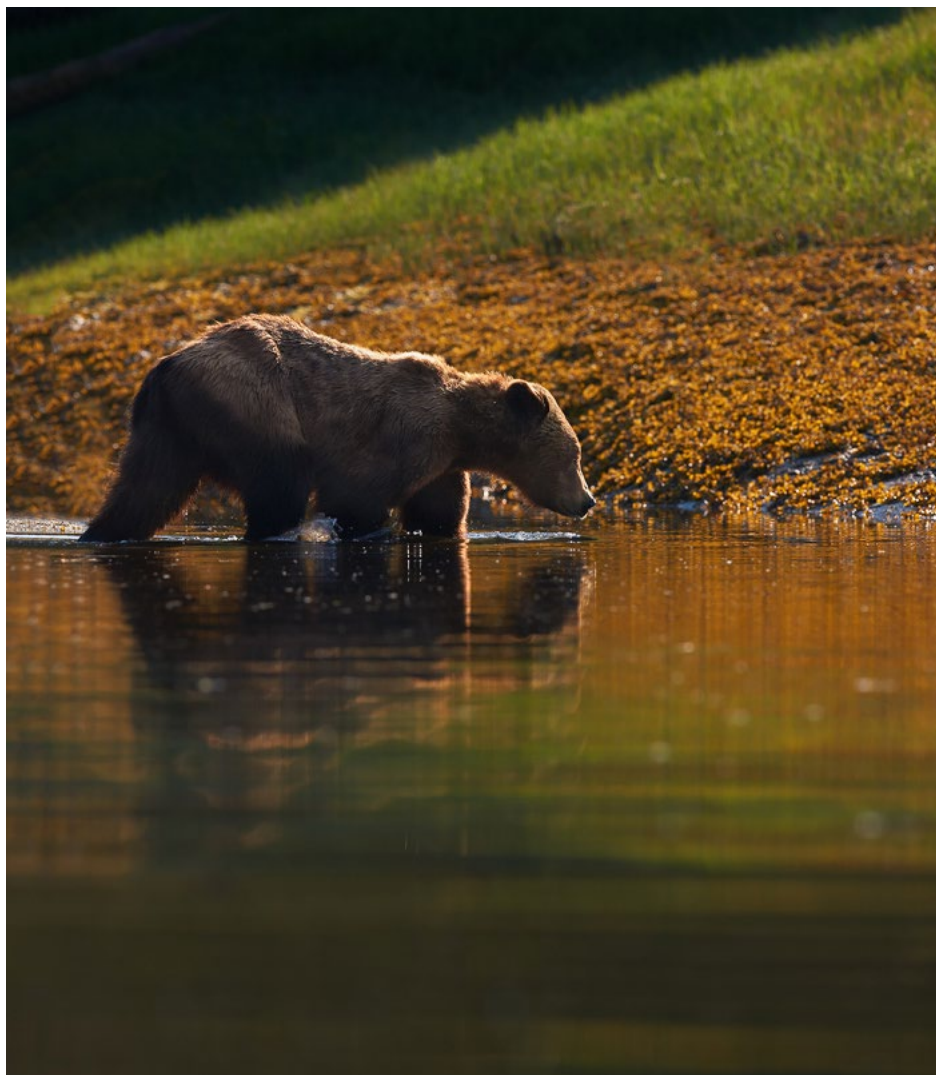
Print Series: *Animalscape Series* Limited Edition Print

Edition Notes:

#1 of 10. Hand-numbered and signed, plus accompanied by Certificate of Authenticity

Price: \$1000 CAD

Portion donated to Raincoast: \$500 CAD



Title: *Sunset Magic*

Location: Khutzeymateen Inlet – northern BC coast, Canada

Technical Field Notes:

Nikon D3s; Nikkor 400mm f2.8G VR; 1/400s @ f6.3

Medium: Giclée print transferred to canvas, framed

Print size (unframed): 18.5" x 21"

Framed size: Approx. 20.5" x 23"

Print Series: *Wildlife Series* Limited Edition Print

Edition Notes:

#1 of 25. Hand-numbered and signed, plus accompanied by Certificate of Authenticity

Price: \$900 CAD

Portion donated to Raincoast: \$450 CAD

Field Notes:

I captured this image while we were following an adult male grizzly along the shoreline in the Khutzeymateen Inlet after it had had an extremely aggressive interaction with a female grizzly with two cubs. Long story short, the male grizzly literally stumbled upon the mother and cubs while they were quietly foraging along a beach. Everyone (including us!) was startled. The male instantly charged the 3 smaller bears and a chase ensued. The female and cubs weren't far from trees and the first priority of mother griz was to ensure that both cubs were safely "stashed" away. Then she turned two things – herself AND the tables! Suffice to say that this male grizzly is likely going to think twice before playing this game again – he took a major licking at the hands of the angry mother! The roars, splashes, and ferocity as the female made this guy wish he was somewhere else was a spectacle I'll never forget. And then to have the chaos replaced under two hours later with this tranquil scene...well...all I can say is that Nature never fails to blow me away!



Field Notes:

While it is easy to get swept up in all the technological advances sweeping through the photography world, at the end of the day the success of all images depend on the same thing – the quality of the light. The almost "painterly" look of this image from the Great Bear Rainforest is not a function of digital magic or manipulation. The look was produced the old-fashioned way...in this case...by the atmospheric conditions. In short, when I shot this image it was absolutely POURING rain. The bear was soaked, the stump was soaked, I was soaked – and the soft look of the background trees was produced by nothing more than the falling rain and mist. Ma Nature – the best art director on earth!

Title: *The Enchanting Great Bear*

Location: Great Bear Rainforest – central BC Coast, Canada

Technical Field Notes:

Nikon D2Xs; Nikkor 200mm f2; 1/80s @ f3.2

Medium: Giclée print transferred to canvas, framed

Print size (unframed): 23" x 15"

Framed size: Approx. 25" x 17"

Print Series: *Wildlife Series* Limited Edition Print

Edition Notes:

#1 of 25. Hand-numbered and signed, plus accompanied by Certificate of Authenticity

Price: \$700 CAD

Portion donated to Raincoast: \$350 CAD



Title: *The Tree of Life*

Location: Great Bear Rainforest – central BC Coast, Canada

Technical Field Notes:

Nikon D4s; Nikkor 400mm f2.8G VR; 1/640s @ f7.1

Medium: Giclée print transferred to canvas, framed

Print size (unframed): 16" x 24"

Framed size: Approx. 17.5" x 25.5"

Print Series: *Wildlife Series* Limited Edition Print

Edition Notes:

#1 of 25. Hand-numbered and signed, plus accompanied by Certificate of Authenticity

Price: \$750 CAD

Portion donated to Raincoast: \$375 CAD

Field Notes:

Among bird photographers there's an image type often jokingly referred to as a "*bird-on-a-stick*" shot. Typically these shots include a bird nicely perched on a bare stick – and that's about it. I suppose a cynic could call this a "*bird-on-a-stick*" shot, but...man...that is ONE cool stick– and the bird ain't half-bad either! ;-)



Title: *Misty Morning Dip*

Location: Khutzeymateen Inlet – northern BC coast, Canada

Technical Field Notes:

Nikon D2x; Nikkor 200-400mm f4 VR; 1/640s@ f4

Medium: Giclée print transferred to canvas, framed

Print size (unframed): 14" x 28"

Framed size: Approx. 15.5" x 29.5"

Print Series: *Wildlife Series* Limited Edition Print

Edition Notes:

#25 of 25 (*the LAST ONE!*). Hand-numbered and signed, plus accompanied by Certificate of Authenticity

Price: \$1000 CAD

Portion donated to Raincoast: \$500 CAD

Field Notes:

In the most northerly part of the Great Bear Rainforest of British Columbia there is a magical inlet called the Khutzeymateen. It is the home of scores of grizzly bears who reside in one of the most idyllic settings imaginable.

I captured this peaceful scene was during my first visit to the Khutzeymateen way back in 2006, and yet to this day it is still one of my favourite shots from there. It was one of those very rare and, I suppose, lucky occasions when pretty much everything comes together – it was a misty morning and the light rain had just stopped; the sun was just beginning to burn through the dream-like fog; the tide was high enough to virtually stop the current of the Khutzeymateen River and produce a mirror-like surface on the estuary; and we had a beautiful blond grizzly female with 3 cubs lazily swimming across the channel! I couldn't have staged a better opportunity! As we approached the bears in our zodiac the mist-muted sun illuminated both the bears and their now glistening wake – I was so spellbound I almost had to pinch myself to make me realize this was real-life, and not a dream!

About the Photographer:

Brad Hill is a highly accomplished nature and wildlife photographer with an international reputation for both his strong technical expertise and his creative eye which manifest themselves in his striking photos.

Brad's formal education was in Behavioural Ecology, which is an evolutionary approach to understanding animal behavior. Following a number of years of teaching and doing research at the University of Calgary, Brad transitioned to the high-tech sector and worked with both Adobe Systems and Getty Images.

In 2004 Brad exited the software industry to focus exclusively on his strongest passion – wildlife and conservation photography. His images have won multiple international awards. Brad's time is now split between leading world-class photography tours, teaching both the creative and technical aspects of nature photography to private clients from around the globe, and, of course, pursuing those elusive scenes that culminate in impactful images of wildlife.

A large collection of Brad's images can be viewed at:

www.naturalart.ca

About the Raincoast Conservation Foundation:

Raincoast is a team of conservationists and scientists empowered by our research to protect the lands, waters and wildlife of coastal British Columbia. We use rigorous, peer-reviewed science and grassroots activism to further our conservation objectives. We call this approach "informed advocacy". As an evidence based, conservation science organization (science ENGO), that operates a research lab, research field station and a research/sailing vessel, we are unique in Canada.

Since 1990, we have been making progress toward our habitat and wildlife protection goals. Our on-the-ground presence has given us a deep-rooted understanding of BC's vast coastline. We work in partnership with scientists, First Nations, local communities and NGOs to build support for decisions that protect marine and rainforest habitat on BC's coast.

Our Mandate: *Investigate. Inform. Inspire.*

We **investigate** to understand coastal species and processes.

We **inform** by bringing science to decision makers and communities.

We **inspire** action to protect wildlife and their wilderness habitats.

Find out more about Raincoast at:

www.raincoast.org

