

ANTHROPOCENE

September 28, 2018 – January 6, 2019

“Our ambition is for the work to be revelatory, not accusatory, as we examine human influence on the Earth both on a planetary scale and in geological time. A shift in consciousness is the beginning of change.”

— Edward Burtynsky, Jennifer Baichwal and Nicholas de Pencier

This fall, enjoy the *Anthropocene* exhibition with your students. It is a dramatic illustration of how we, individually and collectively, are leaving a human signature on our world. World-renowned photographer Edward Burtynsky and multiple award-winning filmmakers Jennifer Baichwal and Nicholas de Pencier created a powerful series of new images, including large-scale murals, film sequences and augmented reality (AR) apps.



Edward Burtynsky, *Clearcut #1, Palm Oil Plantation, Borneo, Malaysia*, 2016. Pigment inkjet print, 148.6 x 198.1 cm. Courtesy of the artist and Nicholas Metivier Gallery, Toronto. © Edward Burtynsky, 2017.

The artists reveal evidence of human impact on the planet, from climate change and species extinction to extraction and the terraforming of the Earth’s surface. By using innovative augmented reality technologies, students will be able to connect with people, places and moments they would not otherwise experience.

CURRICULUM LINKS: History, Geography, Social Studies, Science and Technology



Teacher Resource

...continued



DISCUSSIONS

- What is a landscape?
- How does Burtynsky rethink the traditional idea of landscape?
- Why do you think the artist presents these challenging landscapes as beautiful and captivating?
- What effect does it have on your reaction to the landscapes?

ACTIVITY

Divide your class into three groups. Consider this image from the perspective of groups below: an environmental organization, a multinational mining or forestry company, and residents in an Indigenous community.

- How are the perspectives similar?
- How do they differ?
- What are the implications of these perspectives?

DISCOVER AN AUGMENTED REALITY (AR) EXPERIENCE

Anthropocene at the AGO features several innovative artworks that can only be experienced with the use of a mobile app. The app is called AVARA, and can be downloaded for free from the Apple App Store and Google Play.

- 1 Download the app by searching for AVARA in the Apple App Store or from Google Play (Android users)



- 2 Select the tree image from the scroll list.
- 3 Press **Start AR** and then hold your device over the tree image above to bring Big Lonely Doug into your classroom!

BIG LONELY DOUG

Standing alone in a clearcut outside of Port Renfrew, BC, the 1,000-year-old tree known as Big Lonely Doug is the second largest Douglas fir in Canada at 66 metres tall and around 12 metres in circumference. Doug was saved by a logger, who tied a flagging ribbon to its base with the words 'Leave Tree' written on it. All other trees in the surrounding cut block were logged.

Book your visit today!

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