

MEDIA RELEASE



For Immediate Release

Incredible Images Reveal Powerful Stories of Human and Wildlife Conflict with National Geographic Explorer Ami Vitale and Arts Commons Presents

January 17, 2023 - CALGARY – Ami Vitale has lived in mud huts and war zones, contracted malaria, and donned a panda suit – all in the name of “living the story.” A celebrated storyteller, photographer, and filmmaker, Ami Vitale shares her personal odyssey—from documenting the heartbreaking realities of war to witnessing the inspiring power of an individual to make a difference. Join **National Geographic Live** and **Arts Commons Presents** for **Ami Vitale: *Wild Hope*** on **Sunday, January 29 & Monday, January 30, 2023** in the **Jack Singer Concert Hall**.

Early in her career, Vitale documented the worst conflicts unfolding across the planet—from the war in Kosovo to the abiding conflict between India and Pakistan—with her work taking her to more than 100 countries. More recently, she has turned her lens to wildlife stories, exploring the increasingly complex relationships between humans, wildlife, and this abundant but fragile planet we call home. Her coverage of Kenya’s first indigenous-owned-and-run elephant sanctuary earned World Press Photo recognition in 2018. The October 2019 cover story of *National Geographic* featured Vitale’s tender image of Sudan, the last male northern white rhino, and the heroic efforts of the local people to save a species. And in China, she was given unprecedented access to document the efforts to breed pandas and release them back into the wild. In her presentation she will share the unbelievable stories behind the capture of each of these powerful images and her hope that we can continue to work towards eliminating conflict between humans and wildlife.

“As a photographer, the more I’m asked to document people and their issues, I realize I’m documenting nature, and the more I get asked to document nature, I realize I’m photographing people’s lives. It’s one and the same,” says Ami Vitale. “In a world of seven billion people, we must see ourselves as part of the landscape. Our fate is linked to the fate of animals.”

Arts Commons Presents, the programming arm of Arts Commons, has been bringing the wildly popular National Geographic Live series to Calgary for twelve seasons, engaging Calgarians’ passions for science, exploration, and the natural world. Live at Arts Commons, speakers share their inspiring and often deeply personal stories of their work in the field with high-resolution images and video projected on a screen that runs an impressive 28-foot-high and the 48-foot width of the Jack Singer Concert Hall stage. The presentations also have a strong education and community engagement component, inviting thousands of students each season to experience these speakers live in the Jack Singer Concert Hall or virtually in their classroom. The 2022-23 season of National Geographic Live at Arts Commons is our first all-women season, with Ami Vitale followed by **Lucy Hawkes: *Life on the Move*** on March 12 & 13, and **Divia Amon: *From Shallows to Seafloor*** on May 7 & 8, 2023.

 **NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE**

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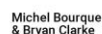


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Past season highlights have included Emmy-Award winning documentary photographer Brian Skerry, and Joel Sartore, who added three animals to his Photo Ark Project through support from Arts Commons Presents and the Calgary Zoo, one of which could not be photographed anywhere else in the world. Through National Geographic Live, Arts Commons Presents makes deep connections between our Calgary community and the natural, social, and scientific worlds around us (and beyond!).

Join Vitale, 2019 National Geographic Woman of Impact, as she shares her philosophy of “living the story” and how that has helped her to capture breath-taking images of humans and wildlife around the world on January 29 & 30, 2023. For tickets or to learn more, call 403-294-9494 or visit artscommons.ca/NatGeoLive.

What: Arts Commons Presents National Geographic Live
Ami Vitale: Wild Hope

When: Sunday, January 29 at 2 p.m. & Monday, January 30, 2023 at 7 p.m.

Where: Jack Singer Concert Hall, Arts Commons

Tickets: 403-294-9494 or visit artscommons.ca/wildhope

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For media inquiries, more information, or for other high-resolution images contact:
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Arts Commons Presents invites you to discover the transformative power of the Arts. As the programming arm of Arts Commons, the largest performing arts centre in Western Canada, Arts Commons Presents is one manifestation of this mandate, achieved through the programming and presenting of our in-house series: BD&P World Stage, National Geographic Live, PCL Blues, TD Amplify Cabarets, and Jazz, as well as the work that we do in the community. Through this work, we are able to do our part to further enrich our city, as well as create opportunities for Calgary-based artists on a multitude of levels.



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