

MEDIA RELEASE



For Immediate Release

National Geographic Explorer Jasper Doest Shares the Power of Photography to Initiate Change by Sharing the Human Side of Wildlife

Just announced, National Geographic Explorer and photographer Jasper Doest to speak replacing the previously engaged Lucy Hawkes.

February 21, 2023 - CALGARY – Not many of us have had a face-to-face encounter with a wild Japanese macaque, or cradled a pink flamingo in our arms who is recovering from a near fatal concussion. This is the power of Jasper Doest’s images – sharing an intimate moment with a creature who is not so different from ourselves. Dutch photographer Jasper Doest explores the beautiful and fragile relationship between humankind, wildlife, and our shared planet. Catch **Jasper Doest: A Voice for Nature** from **National Geographic Live** and **Arts Commons Presents** on **Sunday, March 12 & Monday, March 13, 2023** in the **Jack Singer Concert Hall at Arts Commons**.

Award-winning photographer and National Geographic Live Explorer Jasper Doest strives through his work to give a voice to the wildlife with whom we share this planet. He creates visual stories that explore the relationship between humankind and nature—a critical subject as human impact on the planet increases. Doest looks to ‘rewilding,’ or creating more space for wildlife and natural processes, to forge a sustainable new balance between humans and the wilderness. He has photographed everything from elegant strokes standing in a landfill in Portugal, Spain where they pick through our garbage for food to Japanese macaques, or “snow monkeys,” as they soaked in the local hot spring in Honshu, Japan. Whether in climates tropical or arctic, documenting birds, primates, or our own human impact, Doest’s emotional images are an urgent reminder of the beauty and fragility of our planet.

“I’ve noticed there is a growing divide between ourselves and the natural world,” says Doest. “My work is to make people care about all life that surrounds us. I try to do that in an engaging way where I try not to judge, but much rather ask questions about our connection with other species. Our planet needs sustainability. Photographers can give a voice to those who can’t speak for themselves. Photographers can initiate change. That is the power of photography.”

Arts Commons Presents 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 the impressive 28-foot height 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.



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The 2022-23 season of National Geographic Live has taken us into the farthest reaches of space with **Tracy Drain** to the first Indigenous-run elephant sanctuary in Africa with **Ami Vitale** and now **Jasper Doest** shares his stunning animal portraiture on March 12 & 13 with **A Voice for Nature**. The season closes with **Diva Amon: From Shallows to Seafloor** on May 7 & 8, 2023.

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 Arts Commons Presents and National Geographic Live for **Jasper Doest: A Voice for Nature**. For tickets or to learn more, call 403-294-9494 or visit artscommons.ca/nature.

What: Arts Commons Presents National Geographic Live
Jasper Doest: A Voice for Nature
When: Sunday, March 12 at 2 p.m. & Monday, March 13, 2023 at 7 p.m.
Where: Jack Singer Concert Hall, Arts Commons
Tickets: 403-294-9494 or visit artscommons.ca/nature

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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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