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When the weather is particularly hostile, the Nenets and their reindeer may spend several days in the same place. North of Ob River. Inside the Arctic Circle. Yamal peninsula, Siberia. 2011.

© Sebastião Salgado / Amazonas images

Sebastião Salgado's most epic 8-year photography journey unveiled in Asia for the first time

The result of a tenacious expedition of rediscovery, Genesis presents glimpses of the world untainted by modern life

SINGAPORE, 24 April 2014 – World-renowned photographer Sebastião Salgado's draws you into the splendour of our planet's majestic nature and provides an unbridled exploration of human communities in distant corners of the world with *Genesis*. The latest critically acclaimed collection of 245 black-and-white photographs at the National Museum of Singapore marks the Paris-based Brazilian photographer's premiere solo showcase in Asia.

Angelita Teo, Director of National Museum of Singapore says, "The National Museum of Singapore has over the years featured a number of Singapore and international photography icons. We have always understood photography to be a powerful way to document and present historical and cultural heritage. *Genesis* is an amazing showcase of our fragile and yet majestic planet, while also providing intimate ethnographic images. We are certain visitors would be deeply moved and inspired by this highly-anticipated exhibition by Sebastião Salgado."

Held from 26 April to 27 July 2014, *Genesis* showcases Salgado's signature photographic styles which aspire to show, and to share, our world's beauty by being a visual tribute to a fragile planet we all have a duty to respect. A passionate project that spanned from 2004 to 2011, and across over 30 different trips around the world, *Genesis* is Salgado's third long-term visual exploration of global issues after *Workers* (1993) & *Migrations and Portraits* (2000), anchoring this time on our natural environment.

Genesis is mapped out in five geographic sections to provide an immersive journey into our planet's landscapes, seascapes, animals and peoples that have so far escaped the long reach of today's world:

1) Amazonia and Pantanal

From space, the Amazon River and its tributaries resemble a giant tree of life. Indeed, the entire Amazon basin represents life in myriad ways; as a global lung, as the source of 20 percent of the world's fresh water, as home to uncounted species of flora and fauna, and as a refuge for scores of Indian tribes like the Waura, Kuikuro and Kamayura who live in the Upper Xingu Basin.

On its peripheries, logging, cattle farming, mining and urbanisation are slowly eating away at the jungle. Burned forest and cleared land have now left vast scars on what was once an uninterrupted carpet of green.

2) Planet South

Twice the size of Australia, Antarctica's fierce ecosystem reaches as far as the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and the southern mountains and coasts of Argentina and Chile. Yet in the coldest, driest and windiest of the world's five continents, the cycle of life still goes on.

Starting in the summer of the southern hemisphere from Cape Horn, Salgado's journey on various vessels pass giant icebergs and the unforgiving sea, took him to discover Gentoo and Adélie penguins cohabitating with herds of elephant seals King George Island, before ending his journey admiring the migration of 40-ton southern right whales off the Valdés Peninsula on Argentina's Atlantic coast.

3) Africa

Offers huge variety, ranging from the extraordinary wildlife of the Okavango Delta in Botswana to the gorillas of the Virunga Park bordering Rwanda, Congo and Uganda; from the Himba people of Namibia and the Dinkas tribesmen of Sudan to the San people of Botswana's Kalahari Desert; from the South Omo tribes of southern Ethiopia to the ancient Christian communities of northern Ethiopia. Africa unveils a remarkable panoply of deserts, their colors ranging from dark grey to deep red; their textures from sandy to rocky; some flat as oceans, others interrupted by arid mountains. Yet, in some images from Libya and Algeria, there are also signs of life, not only cacti and rodents, but also cave art dating back thousands of years.

4) Sanctuaries

Isolated islands offer ideal conditions for the development and survival of native flora and fauna. While some ancient tribes like the Mentawi people of Siberut Island still live "inside" nature much as their forefathers did, this harmony is also often disturbed by modern man.

Thus, in what were once safe refuges, ancestral ways of life, rare animals like the giant tortoises and marine iguanas on the *Galápagos* Island, as well as the "hotspots" of biodiversity in Madagascar, where close to 90 percent of its tens of thousands of animal and plant species can be found nowhere else on earth, are all inescapably threatened with extinction.

5) Northern Spaces

Surrounded by hundreds of kilometres of frozen ocean, the Arctic Circle itself is ringed by the northernmost regions of the Americas, Europe and Asia. In some areas, the ice gives way to permafrost and tundra; in others, volcanoes, glaciers and canyons recall the geological convulsions that marked the formation of the earth. Yet tenacious animals such as polar bears, walruses and musk oxen, together with people like the Nomadic Nenets in northern Siberia, have chosen to live there.

Genesis is a photographic homage to our planet in its most natural state, and an exhibition not to be missed. *Genesis* will be on display from Saturday, 26 April 2014, to Sunday, 27 July 2014 in Exhibition Gallery 2 of the National Museum of Singapore. The exhibition is open daily from 10am to 7pm. Admission to this exhibition is free.

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About the National Museum of Singapore

With a history dating back to its inception in 1887, the National Museum of Singapore is the nation's oldest museum with a progressive mind. It is custodian of the 10 National Treasures, and its Singapore History and Living Galleries adopt cutting-edge and multi-perspective ways of presenting history and culture to redefine conventional museum experience.

A cultural and architectural landmark in Singapore, the Museum hosts innovative festivals and events all year round—the dynamic Night Festival, visually arresting art installations, as well as amazing performances and film screenings—in addition to presenting thought-provoking exhibitions involving critically important collections of artefacts. The programming is supported by a wide range of facilities and services including F&B, retail and a Resource Centre.

For more details, please visit www.nationalmuseum.sg.

The National Museum of Singapore is an institution of

