



## **“Edward Burtynsky: Nature Speaks” at the Westport Arts Center**

September 19 – November 1, 2014

On September 19 at 6pm, the Westport Arts Center will open its doors to “Edward Burtynsky: Nature Speaks,” an exhibition that includes large-format color photographs by world-renowned Canadian photographer, Edward Burtynsky, who has achieved international recognition for his photographs of industrial landscapes around the world. He has devoted over 30 years to photographing some of the world’s largest industrial operations—places outside our normal realm of experience, despite the fact that we contribute to their output on a daily basis. From capturing nickel tailings in Ontario to disintegrating shipbreaks in Bangladesh, Burtynsky documents how “nature itself, over time, can reclaim even the most ambitious of human incursions into the land.”

Curated by Helen Klisser During, Westport Arts Center Director of Visual Arts, the exhibition depicts Burtynsky’s striking images of the landscape in various degrees of disarray; some images show natural materials being stripped from the earth while others show nature overcoming the discarded objects that have been placed within it. Burtynsky’s imagery combines the raw elements of mining, quarrying, manufacturing, shipping, oil production, and recycling into exquisitely detailed, exactingly rendered, and unexpectedly sublime landscapes. By presenting sweeping views of areas where modern industrial activity has reshaped the surface of the land, he explores the complex relationship between industry and nature.

Burtynsky continues, “These images are meant as metaphors to the dilemma of our modern existence; they search for a dialogue between attraction and repulsion, seduction and fear.”

“In the third exhibition featuring works focused on the environment from the Hall Collection, Westport Arts Center will continue to explore mankind’s footprint in nature,” states Helen Klisser During. “Profound photographs by Canadian photographer, Edward Burtynsky, reveal the stark reality of human industry on the land. The monumental photographs of dramatic, seductive landscapes are a sobering testament to the complex relationship between industry and nature, which speaks loud and clear.”

Edward Burtynsky was born in St. Catharine’s, Ontario, Canada in 1955. His works are included in over fifty major museum collections around the world, including the Museum of Modern Art, the Guggenheim Museum, the Tate Modern in London, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the National Gallery in Washington D.C., The Library of Congress in Washington D.C., the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the National Gallery of Canada, and the Reina Sofia Museum in Madrid. Major exhibitions include *Water* (2013) at the New

Orleans Museum of Art & Contemporary Art Center, New Orleans, Louisiana (international touring exhibition), *Oil* (2009) at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington D.C. (five-year international touring show), *Manufactured Landscapes* at the National Gallery of Canada (toured 2003 - 2005), *Before the Flood* (2003), and *China* (toured 2005 - 2008). Burtynsky lives and works in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

“Edward Burtynsky: Nature Speaks” will be on view at the Westport Arts Center from September 19 – November 1, 2014. The exhibition is on loan courtesy of the Hall Collection, and has traveled from the Hall Art Foundation in Reading, Vermont where it was on view from November 24, 2012 – December 1, 2013.

The Westport Arts Center, a nonprofit organization dedicated to connecting community through the arts, reaches more than 11,000 people annually through outstanding programs in visual arts, arts education, and the performance arts of Chamber music, Jazz, and film. The Westport Arts Center also receives philanthropic support from the Aibel Foundation, Arnhold Foundation, Artur and Heida Hermanns Holde Foundation, Inc., Bernstein Global Wealth Management, Cannupa Foundation, Cohen and Wolf, P.C., the Connecticut Office of the Arts, EC Infosystems, Fairfield County Bank, Fairfield County Community Foundation, 4th Row Films, Gault Energy, GWAY Marketing Gymnasium, Hall Art Foundation, Madison/Mott, Main Street Resources/Green Village Initiative, Meadow Ridge, Melissa & Doug, Moffly Media, Pepperidge Farm, Inc., Realm (formerly Audio Com), Sheffer Family Foundation, Sontag Advisory LLC, Steel Shed, Sun Hill Foundation, Thomas C. Hofstetter of Morgan Stanley, Smith Barney LLC, Tito’s Vodka, U.S. Trust, Bank of America Private Wealth Management, Verde Energy, Westport Family Counseling, Westport Resources, Xerox Foundation, WSHU Public Radio Group, and Yellowtail.

For more information, contact the Westport Arts Center at [\(203\) 222-7070](tel:2032227070) or [www.westportartscenter.org](http://www.westportartscenter.org). The Westport Arts Center gallery is open Monday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at 51 Riverside Avenue, Westport, CT

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