

Save the Date:

March 16, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. ET
Virtual Event

Lecture:

The Human Element: A New Vision of Nature

People are a force of nature. We alter earth, air, water and fire, which in turn causes those elements to push back and change the terms of our own lives. This feedback cycle is the most important environmental issue of our time. James Balog reveals these issues in a captivating multimedia presentation, providing a fresh look at the human impact of California wildfires, melting glaciers, sea level rise, hurricanes and altered air while celebrating the amazing beauty of the world.

JAMES BALOG

Photographer Filmmaker Climate Change Researcher



“Each new series by James Balog represents a quantum leap in creativity, which takes us deeper into the ultimate mystery of humanity's relationship to the natural world.”

— James Nachtwey, photographer and TED Prize winner

James Balog has spent his career photographing human modification of nature. He is an avid mountaineer with graduate degrees in geography and geomorphology. His work has appeared in such publications as *The New Yorker*, *Life*, *Vanity Fair*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Smithsonian*, *Outside*, *National Geographic* and *Audubon*.

Balog has become a global spokesperson on the subjects of climate change and human impact on the environment. He founded the Extreme Ice Survey (EIS), the most wide-ranging, ground-based, photographic study of glaciers ever conducted. As a result, in 2009, he served as a U.S./NASA representative at the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP 15) in Copenhagen. In 2015, he made numerous presentations on behalf of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), the United Nations Foundation and Solutions COP 21 in Paris.

Balog is the author of eight books. He has been honored with many awards, including the Royal Photographic Society Hood Medal, the Heinz Award, an Honorary Doctor of Science Degree from the University of Alberta, the International League of Conservation Photographers (ILCP) League Award and the American Geophysical Union Presidential Citation for Science and Society.

EXTREME ICE SURVEY

Balog founded the [Extreme Ice Survey](#) in 2007. The project integrates art and science via long-term photography to reveal how climate change is impacting multiple regions of the planet. In his [2009 TED Talk](#), Balog observes how the EIS provides proof of extreme ice loss. The project was featured in a 2009 NOVA documentary, *Extreme Ice*.

The film, [Chasing Ice](#), featured Balog and the EIS. It has won multiple awards, including a 2014 Emmy for Outstanding Nature Programming and an Excellence in Cinematography Award for a U.S. Documentary at Sundance Film Festival. Two books have come out of the project: [Extreme Ice Now: Vanishing Glaciers and Changing Climate: A Progress Report](#) and [Ice: Portraits of Vanishing Glaciers](#).

HUMAN ELEMENT

Balog's most recent film, [The Human Element](#), focuses on how climate change is impacting individuals' lives. In a [recent interview](#) with NPR's Fresh Air, Balog discussed rising sea levels and the impact on Tangier Island in the Chesapeake Bay. [Outside magazine notes](#) that the film aims to close the political and cultural gap on climate change.