



# JIM BRANDENBURG

## A PRISTINE VISION



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### First Retrospective Worldwide – at the Stadtmuseum Schleswig and the Municipal Art Gallery Iserlohn 2011

Jim Brandenburg's reputation as a wildlife photographer is exceptional: he is acknowledged as one of those special artists who have had a significant determining influence on this genre. Born in Minnesota, Brandenburg took up photography – meanwhile his life's work - at the end of the 1960s, while working for a local newspaper. He soon made a name for himself and he has since illustrated a total of 23 photographic reports for the "National Geographic", 18 of which have been published as books. Many films have been made – for instance by the BBC - on the subject of Brandenburg's work. Last year as many as four of his photographs were selected by the "international League of Conservation Photographers" (iLCP) to join the list of the top 40 most significant photographic works on wildlife. Besides Jim Brandenburg, other classic names include Ansel Adams and Edward Weston.

In particular Brandenburg's books on wolves - "White Wolf" and "Brother Wolf" – have become international best-sellers. But he enjoys taking on new challenges, creating remarkable photography books such as "Chased by the Light", for which he committed himself to taking only one photograph a day.

One simply has to be a nature enthusiast to take such photos: For Brandenburg, working at the "Brandenburg Prairie Foundation" is just as much a part of his life as being creative behind the camera. He has won the most prestigious photo awards, such as the "KODAK Wildlife Photographer of the Year" or the "Magazine Photographer of the Year".

Brandenburg has his own unique way of meandering between animal and landscape photography. His portraits of wolves have attained fame all over the world; but he is also an expert at shifting typically unspectacular things into the limelight – grasses in the frost, a birch grove, ravens taking flight, or a cloud formation.



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STADTMUSEUM  
SCHLESWIG



That one magical moment that catches a picture from the river of time is really there in each of Jim Brandenburg's landscape and wildlife photographs. Many of his works capture such magical moments - moments that last just a fraction of a second. The white Arctic wolf leaping, the tiger roaring; Brandenburg picks his split second with outstanding precision.

A refined instinct for compositions and light – often hard work in photography – combines with patience, but also with passionate vitality. Jim Brandenburg's respect for the great outdoors and for life in all its versatility radiates from every photograph. Brandenburg, who is at home in Northern Minnesota, was presented with the "World Achievement Award" at the UN Environmental Summit Conference in Stockholm in 1991. He is an ambassador of Nature and of ecology, but above all he is a photographer whose pictures are always capable of portraying outdoor life as a magical experience.

The proximity in his photographs is physically perceptible: icy cold, silence, blustering winds, enveloping mists – you can almost hear and feel them while gazing at his pictures. Brandenburg's photos open the viewer's eyes for nature, bring us back to the basics. They are icons of our time; icons in the sense that they awaken in us a feeling of awe, acknowledging the existential bonds between Man and the creations of Nature. "We have to realize that the world does not belong to us alone", Jim Brandenburg once said. "A bit more humility and respect for Nature would make all of our lives so much richer."

The exhibition "Jim Brandenburg: A Pristine Vision" has been compiled by the American curator Todd Brandow and co-curators Dr. Holger Rüdell DGPh (Director of Stadtmuseum Schleswig) and Rainer Danne DGPh (Director of the Municipal Art Gallery in Iserlohn). Around 100 works from all Brandenburg's creative periods will be on show, including many large format photos of wolves, the countryside of Minnesota and other regions in the USA, forgotten lakes and forests in Europe, Africa and Asia. They will first be exhibited at the Stadtmuseum Schleswig and then at the "Städtische Galerie" Iserlohn. The dates of the exhibition are: June 10 until October 30 in Schleswig and November until February 2012 in Iserlohn.

The exhibition will be the first retrospective of Jim Brandenburg's work worldwide, and is to be presented at other European museums before touring Japan and the USA. The first location - Stadtmuseum Schleswig in the Günderothscher Hof – has already hosted many special shows of supraregional renown on various photographic themes, including presentations by Sebastião Salgado, James Nachtwey, Weegee, Lewis W. Hine, Tony Vaccaro, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Pascal Maitre, Robert Lebeck, Christian von Alvensleben, Frans Lanting and Steve McCurry.

The exhibition is being co-organized by the Städtische Galerie Iserlohn, a municipal art gallery which has likewise developed into a pan-regional centre of photographic art. Artists presented to date include Arthur Leipzig, Thomas Wrede, Joakim Eskildsen, Peter Schlör, Werner Bischof, Willy Ronis, André Kertész, F. C. Gundlach, Henri Cartier-Bresson and Elliott Erwitt.



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