

## *Alighting in the Moment...a filmmaker's still, quiet witness for the planet*

Mike Price's career as a nature and wildlife filmmaker embodies the essence of motion. Spanning five continents, his award-winning films for notable environmental organizations documented with breathtaking intimacy the patterns and rituals of countless wild animals and birds in their native habitats. For nearly two decades, Price made his living and his reputation tracking and recording his cinematic prey on the move, all the while racking up his own chronicles of adventures in their pursuit.

At the same time, through all his travels, all the filming and all the adventures, Price unfailingly indulged his instinct and passion for the captured moment – the passing gesture, the fleeting expression, the ephemeral rendered as timeless. Thousands of patient hours with camera in hand, in pursuit of the perfect photo, yielded a stunning collection of more than 10,000 still images of the world's richest natural treasures – its birds (Price's special passion), wildlife and vanishing wild landscapes.

Captured at the periphery of his filmmaking focus, Price's body of still photographs reveals a unique, privileged perspective on a magnificent but threatened planet. Deeply personal by definition, his perspective is also inherently universal in his conviction that everything we human inhabitants do to our planet matters to us all.

In the artist's words, it is his "naked agenda of affection for the planet" that has now moved Price to share the riches of his private photographic library with the public, in the process propelling him from a comfortable retirement back into the public eye. In an era when business and development interests are increasingly driving public policy, Price believes it is more imperative than ever to mediate between those interests and the need to protect the natural world, consistent with reasonable aspirations of lifestyle. Collectively, Price's still images are a view on all that's worth saving.

## *Behind the images...stories to entertain and inspire*

Alongside Mike Price's heartfelt messages of conservation and respect go recollections of adventure that invite the viewer to partake of his spontaneous joy in the chase, to share his boundless fascination with the mysteries and delights of the natural world. Many of his still images come with vivid stories of the photographer's quest for the perfect shot. Price offers fond accounts of planning or improvising ingenious devices that brought him within range to record the exquisite beauty of routine and rhythm in a natural world so distant from our own. A stork extending a sheltering wing to shield her young from blazing mid-day sun. A tiger strolling casually through nocturnal rambles. Nesting osprey roused to flight against the explosion and roar of a space shuttle launch.

And then there are Price's priceless, nerves-of-steel encounters with the unexpected, the unplanned moments of truth, producing sometimes less-than-perfect photos but resonating with the excitement of primeval instinct. Face to face with an unexpectedly curious tiger. Prompted by the movement of distant sambhar deer, halting to observe just inches away from an imperious King Cobra on alert. Graced to witness a leopard mother availing herself of manmade river transport to move her cubs to safety from rising floodwaters.

Telling the stories-behind-the-photos, and with the splendor of his images, Price compels his viewers to remember their own connections with the amazing natural world. He reaches out to those who care about the story his images tell of a planet worth saving – and he appeals to those perhaps less aware to pause and consider.