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media release

TVO CELEBRATES THE ARTISTRY, THE CRAFT AND THE POWER OF PHOTOGRAPHY

TVO's Photography Month presented by Henry's showcases the world's great photographers in 15 eye-opening documentaries

Toronto, April 13, 2009 — What can an image reveal about its subject? about the motivations of its artist? about the world we live in? Beginning Sunday May 3 and running throughout the month, TVO focuses its lens on the artistry, the craft and the power of photography in 15 revealing documentaries. The films profile the work and lives of influential photographers and examines how their images have reflected and shaped their time and our society. TVO Photography Month is presented by Henry's and airs in conjunction with Toronto's CONTACT Photography Festival (May 1–31 2009).

On hand to provide his insight on the artists and their work is acclaimed Canadian photographer Edward Burtynsky, who will introduce films presented on Sunday and Thursday nights. Burtynsky's own work – and the messages it conveys about our world – is the subject of *Manufactured Landscapes*, a TVO-co-produced film that airs Sunday May 31 as part of this special lineup of programming.

Viewers are encouraged to watch all 15 films and collect special keywords (photographers' names) that will appear on screen during each documentary. Then online at tvo.org/photographycontact they can enter TVO's Photography Month contest for a chance to win a \$1000 digital camera package from Canon. Complete contest details will be available on the microsite along with the full Photography Month schedule, program descriptions and video clips.

Descriptions of the 15 documentaries airing during TVO Photography Month follow below. To preview some of the films, please visit TVO's May Media Highlights at <http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/mmnr/tvo/may2009/>

***Annie Leibovitz: Life through a Lens* – TVO premiere Sunday May 3 2009 at 9 pm**

The woman behind the iconic images of Hollywood luminaries, pop culture glitterati and political power hitters is the subject of this fascinating documentary that charts her life and career through the various phases that shaped it. From childhood, the tumultuous 60s and touring with the Rolling Stones to Leibovitz's work at *Rolling Stone* and *Vanity Fair* magazines and later, motherhood, the film reveals the evolution and aspirations of inarguably one of today's most influential visual artists.

***Eloquent Nude: The Love and Legacy of Edward Weston and Charis Wilson* – Canadian premiere**

Sunday May 10 2009 at 9 pm

Edward Weston was an emerging genius of modern photography when he met the much younger Charis Wilson, his muse, model and, eventually, wife, in 1934. Wilson, who had a 12-year relationship with Weston, was the subject of the artist's famous nudes. Filmmaker Ian McLuskey chronicles the couple's relationship, their creative process and the way in which they transformed photography – and each other – in the depths of the Great Depression.

Immediately following *Eloquent Nude*, catch an encore presentation of the half-hour film ***Peppers and Nudes: The Photographer Edward Weston*** for more on the life and work of one of 20th-century photography's great figures.

***What Remains: The Life and Work of Sally Mann* – TVO premiere**

Sunday May 17 2009 at 9 pm

Oscar-nominated and Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Steven Cantor captures American photographer Sally Mann as she undertakes her latest project, *What Remains* – a provocative photo series that contemplates death and decay, and America's attitudes towards dying. Along the way, Cantor paints a revealing portrait of the artist as she returns to her family home in Virginia and speaks candidly about her own feelings toward death, her personal life and career trajectory.

***Tierney Gearon: The Mother Project* – Canadian premiere**

Thursday May 7 2009 at 10 pm

Model-turned-photographer Tierney Gearon's photographs have been called manipulative, disturbingly ambiguous, even perverse. In 2001, controversy arose over what some considered offensive photos of Gearon's nude and masked young children being exhibited at London's Saatchi Gallery. Authorities even threatened child pornography charges. In *The Mother Project*, we follow three tumultuous years in Tierney's life as she assembles her most daring and emotionally complex body of work to date: a series on her manic-depressive schizophrenic mother. More than a window into Gearon's creative process, the film ponders the complexities of relationships and the bonds that keep a family together against overwhelming odds.

***Girl in a Mirror: A Portrait of Carol Jerrems* – Ontario premiere**

Thursday May 14 2009 at 10 pm

A look at the work of 1970s photographer Carol Jerrems, whose life was tragically cut short by illness, at the age of 30. Drawing from hundreds of her photographs, the short films she made, and interviews with friends and colleagues, this award-winning film traces the passionate and exuberant course that Jerrems took through Australia's subculture during this turbulent decade.

The Genius of Photography

Mondays May 4 – June 8 2009 at 10 pm

This six-part series explores the history of photography through the key events and images that have marked its development, and contemplates how the camera has changed the way we understand the modern world and ourselves.

Daddy Tran: A Life in 3D

Wednesday May 6 2009 at 10 pm

Director Siu Ta illustrates one man's lifelong passion for photography and his desire to leave behind a legacy of 3-D photos. Photography touched all aspects of the complex but charismatic Hai Tran's life, from his early work as a photographer, through his flight from his native Vietnam to his settling in Calgary and opening one of Canada's largest used camera stores.

Hansel Mieth: Vagabond Photographer

Wednesday May 13 2009 at 10 pm

Filmmaker Nancy Schiesari delves into the life and work of this German-born American photographer whose depictions of the casualties of social injustice appeared in virtually every picture magazine in the world from the 1930s to the 1950s, the golden age of photojournalism.

The Photographer, His Wife, Her Lover

Wednesday May 20 2009 at 10 pm

Filmmaker Paul Yule takes a look at the scandal surrounding missing prints of renowned American

photographer O. Winston Link. Was Conchita, Link's adulterous ex-wife and manager, a cold-hearted money-grubber? Or was she framed?

The True Meaning of Pictures

Thursday May 21 2009 at 10 pm

Filmmaker Jennifer Baichwal examines the work of controversial photographer Shelby Lee Adams and his striking portraits of families in Appalachia.

Ansel Adams

Sunday May 24 2009 at 9 pm

An in-depth exploration of the life and art of photographer Ansel Adams, best known for his dramatic black-and-white images of America's wilderness areas, and his efforts to conserve the nature that he photographed.

Dolce Vita Africana

Wednesday May 27 2009 at 10 pm

A culture seen through a camera lens: Malian photographer Malick Sidibe's snapshots from the late 1950s to the early 1970s capture the carefree spirit of youth asserting their freedom from colonialism in the early days of Malian independence – until a coup ushered in decades of austere military dictatorship.

Stars by Helmut Newton

Thursday May 28 2009 at 10 pm

Celebrity subjects discuss the style and influence of the late fashion photographer Helmut Newton upon the publication of his 466-page, 66-pound retrospective book of his work.

Manufactured Landscapes

Sunday May 31 2009 at 9 pm

Filmmaker Jennifer Baichwal follows Edward Burtynsky through China as he shoots the evidence and effects of the country's massive industrial revolution. While some cities boom, others become dumping grounds of its waste.

About TVO

TVO is Ontario's public educational media organization and a trusted source of interactive educational content that informs, inspires and stimulates curiosity and thought. TVO's vision is to empower people to be engaged citizens of Ontario through educational media. For more information, visit tvo.org.

Where to find TVO

Cable channel 2 (channel may vary in some areas), Bell TV channel 265, Star Choice channel 353.

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