

KAUNAS PHOTO comes to zoo: artistic education for visitors and giraffes

2018 Sunday, July 1, at 2 pm KAUNAS PHOTO festival will present Anup Shah exhibition "Migrations" at the Lithuanian Zoo in Kaunas. The 15th Photographic Festival invites you to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Lithuanian Zoo. Anup Shah, from an extremely close and intimate distance, looks at African animals and discusses migration and the desire of a natural person to survive. The exhibition will be opened until October 28 in 2018, near giraffes under the open sky.

According to photographer **Anup Shah**, the main human desire is to survive. Often survival involves changing the living environment. Author wondered: Is there a parallel world to the human-centric world we have created where migration takes place as a matter of course? Does that primeval urge residing in wild minds help us to see the more complex human motivation to move in a different way? The photographer have known the land called Mara for a long period of time during which I have grown to love it and to feel for its wild animals. Here, wild animals routinely migrate in search of water and food. Using a close, intimate point of view as well as a consistent format, he waited and waited for the key moments. "I determined to frame my response as a visual series hoping to show motion in survival." – says **Anup Shah**. This risky body of work, which had heavy investment and three years of commitment to get it right, is a visual attempt at migration in a wild habitat inviting us to re-examine, even revise, our own urges to move to pastures anew. The director of **KAUNAS PHOTO** festival **Mindaugas Kavaliauskas** is joking that this exhibition of photography will not only extend the Kaunas Zoological Garden, but also giraffe, who will observe the exposition as if from a party, will introduce the tribal people in Africa.

Anup Shah received a call from the National Geographic that most photographers dream of, for his first assignment for the magazine in 2001. This was followed by seven more assignments and then publication of three photography driven books for the New York art publisher, Abrams. By now **Anup** had got fascinated by Fine Art photography and wondered if he could hit the sweet spot between documentary and fine art photography. His latest project, published in book form "The Mara" is an attempt to have the viewer feel what it is like to feel intimate with wild animals and thereby feel a primeval connection. **Anup** was featured in The World's Top Wildlife Photographers book (Rotovision 2004) and in Horzu magazine (February 2010) as one of the five best wildlife photographers in the world. He is also one of the 10 'Masters' featured in the book Masters of Nature Photography (Natural History Museum September 2013). **Anup** has exhibited solo at venues such as Visa Pour l'Image (Perpignan, France), Umbria World Festival (Italy), Konica-Minolta Gallery (Tokyo), Serendipity Arts Festival, Goa (India) and was part of group exhibition at The Natural History Museum (London).

The exhibition is opened every day from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM. (cash desks are open until 18:00).

The exposition is located in the Lithuanian Zoological Garden, near the giraffes. Visitors to the exhibition are invited to purchase a zoo visitor ticket, thus contributing to animal welfare. (Ticket prices: for adults € 5, children € 3, children under 5 years old – free of charge.)

Organizer of the exhibition: **KAUNAS PHOTO festival**, partner: **The Lithuanian Zoo**. Sponsors of **KAUNAS PHOTO festival**: **Lithuanian Culture Council, Kaunas City Municipality, Epson**.