

## SUBHANKAR BANERJEE LECTURE ENDORSEMENTS

“Thank you for a most stimulating and energetic presentation at the Hood Museum of Art last Friday [March 30, 2007]. Your lucid and powerful advocacy for resource management and sensitive regard for the rights of the Indigenous peoples of the Arctic made a great impression on us all. You so deftly and lightly touch on so many subjects and art forms in your talk, showing both intellectual depth and a global perspective. Your splendid photographs, taken with skill and imagination, left none of those present in any doubt about the beauty and diversity of the Arctic lands. They must be protected and not squandered.”

**Brian Kennedy**, Director, Hood Museum of Art at Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire

“I’m delighted to report that the December 6, 2005 “Wilderness and Imagination” event featuring Subhankar Banerjee, Terry Tempest Williams, and David Allen Sibley was by numerous accounts one of the best programs in Seattle Arts & Lectures’ history. For an organization that has presented some of the world’s finest contemporary writers and thinkers, that is no small assertion. “Wilderness and Imagination” aligned fully with the mission of the organization; moreover, it exceeded our expectations about the positive impact such a special event would have on both the organization and the community. The most measurable indicator of the event’s success was clearly the sold-out venue—Benaroya Hall—with a capacity of 2500. Every seat was occupied, and at the end of the event the entire audience enthusiastically leapt to their feet for a standing ovation. Each of the speakers shared their reflections on the ways in which wilderness and imagination intersect, on the representations we make of nature (verbal, historical, visual), and on the impact that our definitions and perceptions of wilderness have on the physical environment. All three speakers share the uncommon but powerful combination of being artists, scientists, and environmentalists—each is exceptionally good at close observation and at a form of expression, whether that is verbal or visual, that enables others to see better, as well. Above all, each of these very different individuals is visionary and passionate. Together they produced an event that enabled the audience to leave with new ideas and ways of seeing and engaging with the world around them. Subhankar’s vision, persistence, and patience—evident in both his creative work and environmental advocacy—are largely responsible for the success of this event. Like others around the country, our audience has been captivated by his vision and his ability to pursue a dream and a project to its magnificent fulfillment. Seattle Arts & Lectures is exceedingly proud of our partnership with Subhankar and ability to highlight his work. We are glad to have provided an appropriate platform and context for a resoundingly successful concluding event in his series of national presentations.”

**Dr. Margit Rankin**, Executive Director, Seattle Arts & Lectures, 2005

"From the Arctic to the Red Rock" with Subhankar Banerjee, Terry Tempest Williams, and David Allen Sibley was the most elegant and uplifting event at the University of Utah this year, and quite possibly within Salt Lake City. The performance was sold out (750 seats) and we regrettably had to turn 500 people away. Banerjee's talk was inspiring and his images visually arresting. The exhibition of his work in the Museum of Utah Art and History's "great hall" is striking a responsive chord with the public and is well attended. We appreciate Lannan Foundation's generosity in bringing Banerjee to Salt Lake City to enlighten our students and citizenry with his thoughtful documentary narrative, and look forward to the possibility of future collaborations -- with Lannan and/or Subhankar.

**Robert Newman**, Dean and Professor of English, College of Humanities, University of Utah, 2004

“Subhankar Banerjee opened up many new doors for the Gwich’in with his book. Furthermore, his partnership with the Lannan Foundation moved the discussion about the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the interdependent coexistence of Inupiat and Gwich’in to a whole new level. The combination of Subhankar’s cultural background, combined with his scientific knowledge and artistic skill brought a professional and heartfelt perspective to the debate, unlike anyone before. Subhankar has been able to do as the Gwich’in elders advised, ‘Do it in a good way and speak from the heart’.”

**Luci Beach**, Executive Director, Gwich’in Steering Committee, 2004

“Subhankar Banerjee’s presentation and exhibition at Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs made a significant contribution to the intellectual life and cultural richness of our community. His photography was displayed in our Bernstein Gallery for a number of weeks and was regularly the topic of conversation around the School, prompting discussion of photography, the Arctic Refuge, and environmental policy. His presentation contextualized his work and gave us all important food for thought on a topic that is too often overlooked. Beyond the extraordinary artistic merit of his work, the exhibition and presentation were an ideal fit for a public policy school. We hope to welcome him back in the future and are deeply grateful to him and the Foundation for making his visit possible.”

**Bill Burke-White**, Lecturer and Senior Special Assistant to the Dean

Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, 2004

“On October 6, 2004, Subhankar Banerjee gave a lecture and slide presentation to approximately 120 students, faculty, staff, and community members at Columbia University. The renowned Earth Institute sponsored the event and Professor Don Melnick, director of the Center for Environmental Research and Conservation, introduced Banerjee. The event was particularly well attended in the midst of one of the busiest New York lecture and event seasons (due to the presidential elections) and drew an unusually diverse crowd for an evening campus talk: undergraduates, faculty, as well as environmental policy doctoral students and staff. Audubon Society members and green activists also attended. Subhankar, through his images, was able to graphically present the issues the Earth Institute is researching and studying. He made it real to people who work in classrooms and labs. During the question and answer period, one audience member, a native Alaskan, praised Banerjee for accurately and sensitively depicting the story of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the lives of the Inupiat and Gwich’in people living there. Another student in the non-fiction graduate writing program at Columbia said she would base her next articles on Banerjee's work. The lecture was part of a major educational initiative undertaken by the Earth Institute to engage students in pressing environmental issues of the day.”

**Louise A. Rosen**

Director of Student Programs, The Earth Institute, Columbia University, New York, NY

**Brenda Coughlin**

Ph.D. Candidate, Sociology, Columbia University, New York, NY

“Subhankar's passion and work have been instrumental in publicizing the precarious political situation of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. His unique and spectacular images convey not only the sense of the place but present a view that most will never see and debunks the pro-drilling proponents' characterization of a frozen wasteland. Once an individual experiences Subhankar's images and passion, they become wilderness advocates forever.”

**Cindy Shogun**, Executive Director, Alaska Wilderness League, Washington, DC