

BRINGING THE WORLD INTO FOCUS

It's not often that we have the chance to experience world-class photography in one city, but June is an exception with not one but two internationally acclaimed exhibitions coming to Bangkok – *Earth from Above* and *World Press Photo*. Each photographic work has a story to tell, whether it's cultural, political or environmental, and the stories are often as fascinating as the images themselves.

WORLD PRESS PHOTO

June 18 – July 16, 2008
ZEN Event Gallery, Bangkok

Each year, press photographers from around the world submit their pictures to 'World Press Photo', which offers a platform for creativity in photojournalism and developments in the profession. Out of the thousands of submissions the organization receives, winners in different categories – such as General News, Sports Action, Contemporary Issues, Portraits, Arts and Entertainment, Nature – are painstakingly selected over the course of a few months, and after the World Press Photo Contest, the winning images go on show. The exhibition is officially opened

in Amsterdam as part of the prize-giving ceremony in April, and until March the next year can be seen at venues around the globe. Because of the wide-ranging focus of the contest, the exhibition forms a fascinating eyewitness record of world events of the previous year.

The tour program takes in over 80 cities worldwide and this year – for the first time since 1999 – Bangkok is once again on the roster. World Press Photo is being combined with its Thai counterpart, 'Thai Press Photo' (*Isra Amantakul Awards*) into one landmark event – 'Press Photo in Focus'. These two remarkable photography exhibitions are organized by Ovation Studio in conjunction with ZEN Department Store and the Thai Press Association; there will also be lectures, talks, discussions and other special activities, targeted at press journalists and photographers.

THE MAN BEHIND THE LENS: PAUL NICKLEN

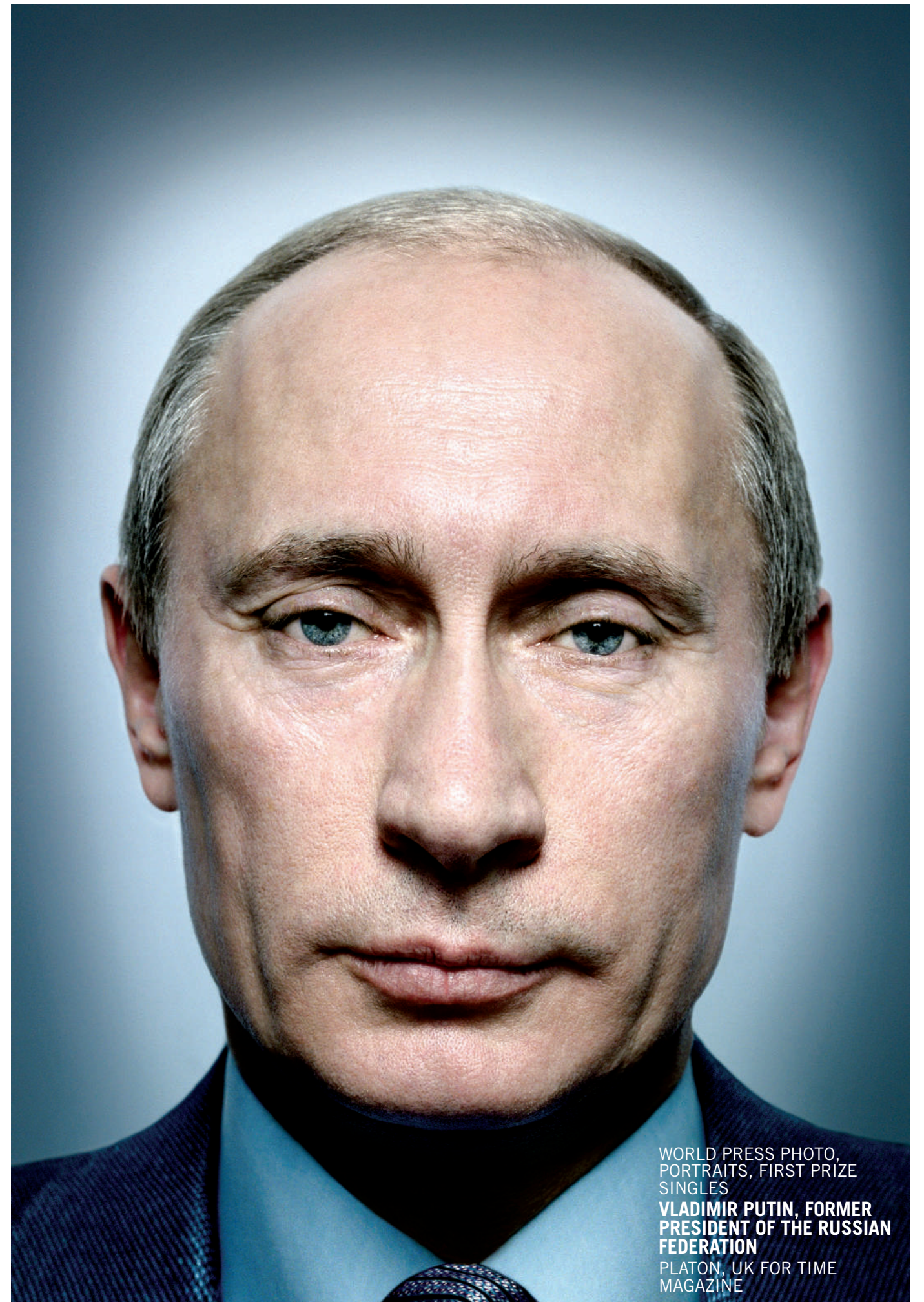
Some of the most striking pictures were taken by Paul Nicklen, winner of two prizes at the prestigious World Press Photo for his wildlife reportage in the Arctic for *National Geographic Magazine*.

Paul Nicklen (38) grew up in a small Inuit community in Canada's Arctic and spent his early years observing nature and traveling on the land. After completing a degree in Marine Biology, he soon realized that he could better serve wildlife populations by becoming a wildlife and nature photojournalist and hasn't looked back since.

He admits that his work can get very lonely. "If I am stuck alone somewhere under the sea ice, my assistant hates me for being there, I am cold and miserable myself, and big animals with large sharp ends are staring back at me, then I know I am probably in the right spot."



WORLD PRESS PHOTO, NATURE, SECOND PRIZE STORIES
ARCTIC IVORY - HUNTING THE NARWHAL, NUNAVUT, CANADA
PAUL NICKLEN CANADA, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE



WORLD PRESS PHOTO, PORTRAITS, FIRST PRIZE SINGLES
VLADIMIR PUTIN, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
PLATON, UK FOR TIME MAGAZINE



WORLD PRESS PHOTO OF THE YEAR
AMERICAN SOLDIER IN KORENGAL VALLEY, AFGHANISTAN
TIM HETHERINGTON
VANITY FAIR

A soldier of Second Platoon, Battle Company of the Second Battalion of the US 503rd Infantry Regiment sinks onto an embankment in the Restrepo bunker in the Korengal Valley, Afghanistan, at the end of the day on September 16. The valley was the epicenter of the US fight against militant Islam in Afghanistan, and scene of some of the deadliest combat in the region.



THAI PRESS PHOTO
INFANT AMONG MUSLIM PROTESTERS, YALA, THAILAND
CHAROON THONGNUAL,
THE NATION

A one-month-old crying infant is raised up for fresh air by his Thai Muslim mother in a demonstration in hot weather. The mother was among more than 100 women and children protesters who barricaded the Petchkasem Road in Mueang district, Yala demanding officials release one of suspects detained on the charge of a petrol station bomb. The demonstration was reportedly dispersed peacefully by female rangers.



WORLD PRESS PHOTO, SPORT ACTIONS,
THIRD PRIZE STORIES
BASKETBALL MATCH, PROVO, UTAH, USA
CHRIS DETRICK, THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

Pepperdine's Jason Walberg gouges the eyes of Brigham Young University's Jonathan Tavernari during a basketball match in Provo, Utah, USA. No foul was called. Although Tavernari missed the basket immediately after the incident, he was not injured. Later in the game he scored back-to-back three-pointers, helping his team win 86-67.



WORLD PRESS PHOTO CONTEMPORARY ISSUE
FIRST PRIZE SINGLES
EVACUATION OF DEAD MOUNTAIN GORILLAS, VIRUNGA NATIONAL PARK, EASTERN CONGO
BRENT STIRTON, GETTY IMAGES FOR NEWSWEEK

Rangers in the Virunga National Park in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo evacuate the bodies of four mountain gorillas found shot in the forest. The gorillas, a highly endangered species, live in an area beset with conflict. A number of militia groups appear to be operating in Virunga. It is not always clear who is attacking the gorillas, which are sometimes eaten as bush-meat, or else simply executed. At least nine were killed during 2007.

EARTH FROM ABOVE

Yann Arthus-Bertrand

June 3 – September 9, 2008

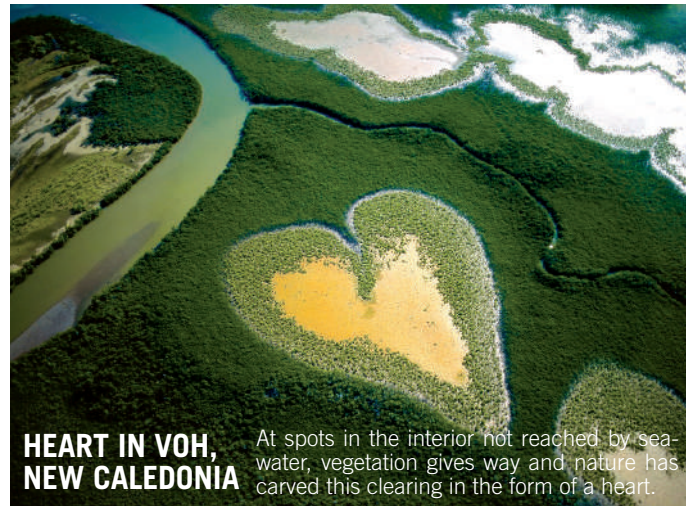
ZEN Department Store, Bangkok

Started in 1994, the 'Earth From Above: An Aerial Portrait of Our Planet' project was born from photographer Yann Arthus-Bertrand's desire to create a record of the world's environment for present and future generations. He discovered the beauty of the world seen from above when he became a hot air balloon pilot and began experimenting with aerial photography.

Born in 1946, Yann has always been fond of nature. It was in the late 70s, in Kenya, while studying the every day life of lions that he truly became a photographer. He understood that he had to tell the facts through images rather than words. Upon his return to France in 1981, he published his first book *Lions*, and numerous others have followed since. He also began a career as a reporter-photographer, and closely worked with various naturalists including Dian Fossey and her mountain gorillas in Rwanda.

To date, under the patronage of UNESCO, Yann and his team have been to over 150 countries and taken photographs of thousands of sites. Many countries remain to be visited, and geographical coordinates of every shot allows other photographers and scientists to locate and document the evolution of these sites. In 1999, his work was published and *The Earth from Above*, translated in 24 languages, became one of the bestselling illustrated books with more than three million copies sold worldwide.

The Earth from Above is also an open-air free access exhibition that travels in more than 110 cities around the world and has attracted over 120 million visitors. This breathtaking display of photographs is now on display in Bangkok as part of French cultural festival La Fête.



**HEART IN VOH,
NEW CALEDONIA**

At spots in the interior not reached by seawater, vegetation gives way and nature has carved this clearing in the form of a heart.

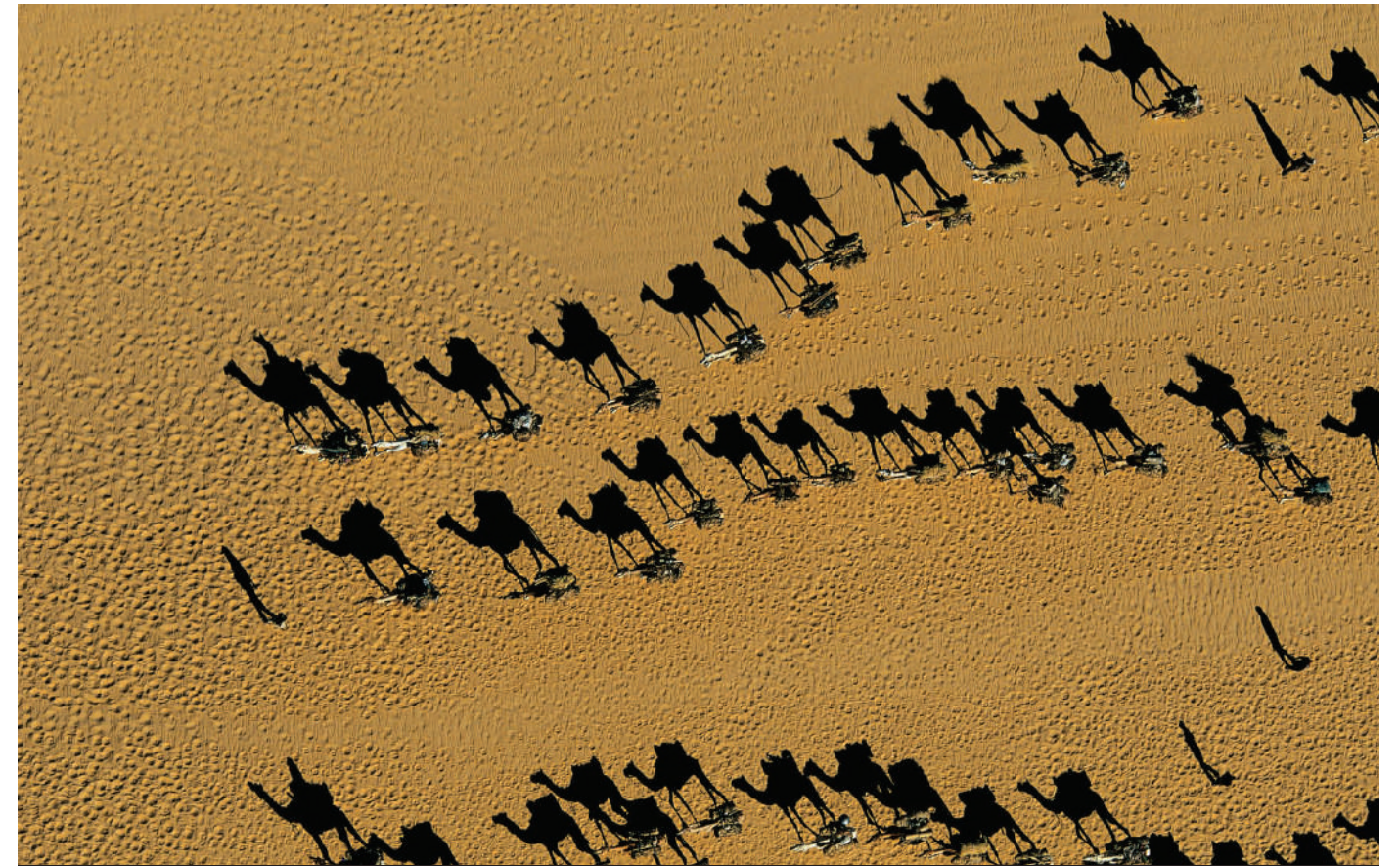


Yann Arthus-Bertrand



**THE BLUE LAGOON,
REYKJANES PENINSULA,
ICELAND**

Natural hot springs in the volcanic region of Reykjanes Peninsula, Iceland. The color of the lagoon results from the mineral mixture of silica and chalk from the basin combined with the presence of decomposing algae.



**DROMEDARY CARAVANS NEAR
FACHI, TÉNÉRÉ CAFÉ DESERT,
NIGER**

For decades the Tuareg people have traded salt by driving camel caravans over the 610 km between the city of Agadez and the Bilma salt pits. The camels, ridden in single file, travel in convoys at a rate of 40 km per day, despite temperatures reaching 46°C in the shade, and loads of nearly 100kg per animal. Caravans, at one time made up of as many as 20,000 camels, are generally limited today to 100 animals.



**RICE FIELDS,
NORTHERN THAILAND**

Workers in the rice fields between Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai