

Kyle Freese  
6/14/20  
Photo 126  
Melissa Rackham, MFA

When I look at photos, I really enjoy it when I'm teleported to another time and/or place- when I can feel like I'm really there. And, Edward Burtynsky's work does that for me. His documentary, *Manufactured Landscapes*, also does that. I couldn't get enough of it.

I've always been interested in our environmental impact on the planet. That is why I chose this film for the assignment. Lately though I have been so introverted that I have begun to think maybe our impact is exaggerated or even just imagined. But now, after seeing this, I have re-affirmed my original instinct that we definitely can completely change this place, for better or for worse.

This documentary and the subsequent photos really hit home (literally). I like how Mr. Burtynsky insisted that he not editorialize the photos, that the audience formulate their own opinions and hypotheses. He just displayed the vast array and magnitude of the facts, visually.

I like how he would show some parts in black and white for poignancy and then show/fade into color toward the end of that micro-story. As the film wore on, I was actually able to start to predict when each part would turn color, letting me know that I was fully involved with the pace that he was setting with his stories and that I actually understood the points he was making visually.

The art gallery show at the end really helped me to understand this man as the epic photographer that he is. I was finally able to see how the size of the final prints being made throughout the film was crucially important to his work. The large sized prints allowed the detail to come to life of all these vast wide angle landscapes and these photos would be a lot harder to appreciate on a cell phone or computer screen. During the film he would show the same the photos in his hand and I sort of thought he was better at making a documentary than taking photographs. But then, I saw the large prints at the end, and I was like, "Oh, I get it now. He really is a photographer/artist and this documentary was just the behind the scenes of that epic photography shoot. He is amazing! I would love to see the gallery show in person."

I have been feeling the same way about my panorama over looking Spokane- that I want to turn it into a large print for my wall. And now, after seeing how much better Edward Burtynsky's work looked in large format on a wall, I think I will do just that. Then I can show off for guests when they come over too- how fun. I can't wait.

Edward Burtynsky has shown me the true power of "show, don't tell" through the photographic medium. He has made me realize that I am definitely in the right major at school- Digital Media Production. And, I hate to say it, because most of my classes/instructors insist that we find ourselves a focused niche to produce in, but he makes me want to seriously diversify my body of work. I have many tales and perspectives that I want to "show, not tell". After seeing this film I am super excited to "get busy" and start to do just that.