



Into the Wild

Rome's Civic Zoology Museum is the venue for an exciting new exhibit for anyone who loves photography and wildlife. **Tiffany Parks** has the scoop.

Photography is one of the most accessible yet complex and challenging of arts. Capturing images of wild animals, however, takes it to a whole new level. The Natural History Museum in London and the BBC Wildlife Magazine present 100 images deemed the best of the best in their 49th annual Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition. More than 43,000 photographers—amateurs and professionals alike—from 96 countries participated in this year's contest, so competition was naturally fierce. The winners were selected by an international panel of experts, based on the criteria of creativity, artistic value, and technical complexity.

Each of the 100 images encapsulates the beauty and fascination of our planet's spectacular nature and wildlife, showcasing the patience and skill of the photographers as well as raising awareness of the places on earth that are constantly

evolving in order to preserve their richness and diversity.

Eighteen prizes in total were awarded in categories such as wildlife photojournalism, animal portraits, animal behavior, nature in black and white, and the underwater world. The highest accolade of all, the prize for Wildlife Photographer of the Year, was claimed by South African photographer Greg du Toit, with his moving and mysterious shot "Essence of Elephants" (pictured above), taken in the Northern Tuli Game Reserve in Botswana. The top award for the junior category, in the 11 to 14 year-old division for Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year, went to 14-year-old Udayan Rao Pawar, with his photo "Mother's Little Headful," which shows the gharial crocodile carrying her hatchlings on her head, captured on the bank of the Chambal River in the Madhya Pradesh region of India. See this fascinating show at the Civic Museum of Zoology (p59).