

# RTPI To Host Environmental Impact Exhibit

From Sunday through July 6, the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History is hosting Environmental Impact, featuring works by internationally known artists, such as world renowned Canadian wildlife artist Robert Bateman.

The pieces, in a wide range of styles and media, and outstanding in and of themselves, are united in their ominous message of a natural world under attack by over-consumption of natural resources, global climate change, and other human causes.

The traveling exhibit is produced by veteran wildlife art curator David J. Wagner. Wagner said he was heartened to discover “that there exists any number of highly successful, top-flight professional artists who have dedicated their considerable talent to confront the variety of difficult environmental issues that we face today.” According to Wagner, because most art depicts “nature in all its pristine glory,” he sought to “showcase work that focuses on subjects and images that are closer to the reality of the age we live in” and focus on “ailments confronting humanity and the health of the planet



**Pictured is one of the pieces of art featured in Environmental Impact, an exhibit that will be featured at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute from Sunday through July 6.**

today.” Viewers of this exhibition will be sure to leave impressed with the execution of the artwork and with renewed commitment to do whatever we can to protect and conserve the natural world on which we all depend.

On Friday evening, June 27, RTPI will have Cole Johnson on hand at an artist’s

reception free and open to the public. Johnson, whose work is featured in the exhibition, will present a program on his unique style and the techniques that have brought him acclaim as one of the top graphite artists in the world.

The institute also is featuring selections from the life work of Roger Tory Peterson and an exhibit

marking the 100th anniversary of the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon. The Roger Tory Peterson Institute is located at 311 Curtis St., Jamestown, and is open to the public Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 1-5 p.m. Sundays. For more information, call 665-2473 or visit [www.rtpi.org](http://www.rtpi.org).



**“Environmental Impact,” a traveling exhibit, will be on display at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute now through July 6.**

## RTPI Exhibit: Making An Impact

BY ROBERT W.  
PLYLER

### IN REVIEW

Through July 6, the walls of the Roger Tory Peterson Institute are hung with an art show, bringing some of the most eloquent works by dozens of different nature artists, combined in a travelling exhibition titled, “Environmental Impact.”

As the title suggests, the paintings, drawings, sculptures, photographs, and other media all deal with the way the human race changes and influences the world in which we all live.

The large exhibit fills the ground-floor display spaces in the beautiful institute’s headquarters, also covers most of the second floor walls, as well. In addition, there are two smaller exhibits open, as well.

As a visitor enters the building, there is a small, central gallery directly in front of him. In that gallery, there is an exhibit dealing with Peterson’s life here in Jamestown, which bridges the work which he did here with the gradually changing work which he did in New York City.

On the second floor, just to the right of the head of the staircase, there is a small exhibit dealing with the passenger pigeon. That bird, which became extinct exactly 100 years ago, was once the most numerous species on our continent. Flocks of the birds flew at an estimated 60 mph, in their regular migrations. Eyewitness reports claim that the pigeons kept the sun virtually invisible for several days at a time, and when they had flown over a particular area, left droppings more than a foot deep. Despite their seemingly vast numbers, the birds became extinct within a period of 50 years.

Returning to the larger exhibit, each of the 55 works of art portrays a message about humanity’s needlessly wasteful and destructive impact on the world of nature.

In some cases, the

message is loud, clear and unquestionable. “Apocalypse,” by Walter Fergusen, shows a view of the planet, as seen from space, nearly blotted out by what seems like an endless landscape filled with smoking industrial chimneys, nuclear reactors, stacks of old tires, and other such demonstrations of human neglect.

Others are more subtle in their message. “Untitled #3,” by Diana Sanchez, is a black-and-white photograph of an elephant in a circus. An attractive young woman waves from the elephant’s neck. Large bracelets surround the animal’s front legs, as it rears up, for the entertainment of the crowd. The photo is labeled “part of the ‘Guilty Pleasure’ series.”

Probably the best-known artist whose work appears in the exhibit is Canadian wildlife artist Robert Bateman, who has four large works in the show.

Artist Cole Johnson, whose stark black and white drawing of a bird, hanging limply from wires, near a pole, where it has been electrocuted, is one of the first work one sees, as one enters the exhibit, is a resident of Deposit, N.Y., which is located along the Southern Tier Expressway. Johnson will be present in the gallery June 27, from 5-8 p.m. to greet the public and to speak about his drawing, and his artwork in general.

The show is only in town for a rather short stay, so I encourage you to see the exhibit at your first opportunity. RTPI is located at 311 Curtis St., near the campus of Jamestown Community College. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesdays through Saturdays. On Sundays, they’re open from 1-5 p.m. The art is both beautiful and educational, and well worth your attention.

# Johnson Reception, Program Set For June 27 At RTPI

On Friday, June 27, from 5-7:30 p.m., the Roger Tory Peterson Institute will host a public reception and program by acclaimed wildlife artist Cole Johnson. Johnson's work is among those featured in the current exhibition at RTPI, Environmental Impact, which runs through July 6. The June 27 reception and program are free and open to the public; donations are appreciated.

An avid outdoorsman, Johnson has lived in Upstate New York his entire life and resides in the Catskill Mountain region. He earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts at State University of New York at Buffalo in 1991. His chosen medium is graphite powder, which he uses to render incredibly lifelike drawings of his favorite subjects, which include white-tailed deer, trout, wild turkey, hunting dogs and waterfowl.

Johnson is a signature member of the Society of Animal Artists, a select group dedicated to "promoting excellence in the portrayal of creatures sharing our planet." His works have been included in such prestigious shows as the National Arts for the Parks Competition and the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum's Birds in Art exhibition, as well as RTPI.

The Environmental Impact exhibit currently being featured at RTPI and curated by veteran wildlife art curator David J. Wagner, includes works by internationally-known artists, such as renowned Canadian wildlife artist Robert Bate-



**Acclaimed graphite artist Cole Johnson is among those featured in Environmental Impact, a major exhibition now on display at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute. Cole will be on hand for public events at RTPI on June 27 and the Painted Finch Gallery in Corry, Pa. on June 28.**

man. The outstanding pieces, in a wide range of styles and media, are united in their ominous message of a natural world under attack by over-consumption of natural resources, global climate change, and other human causes. Viewers of this exhibition will be sure to leave impressed with the execution of the artwork and with renewed commitment to do whatever we can to protect and conserve the natural world on which we all depend.

At the June 27 reception guests can tour the exhibi-

tion while enjoying refreshments and meet Johnson, RTPI staff and volunteers, all in the Institute's beautiful surroundings. The evening will be capped by a special program in which Cole will discuss his unique style and demonstrate the techniques that have brought him acclaim as one of the top graphite artists in the world.

In addition, on Saturday, June 28, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Johnson will be on hand at the Painted Finch Gallery, 508 E. Columbus Ave. (Route 6), Corry, Pa., where visitors can meet the

**Submitted photo**  
artist and view his works available for purchase. For more information call the gallery at 814-664-3053.

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