OMSI OPENS NEWEST NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

Desert Air Features Paraglider’s View of World’s Deserts

Portland, Ore. (February 14, 2013) – Does sailing a hundred feet above camel caravans appeal to your sense of adventure? How about drifting high above a honeycomb of ancient abodes? If so, look no further than the latest collection of images to grace the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry’s (OMSI’s) National Geographic Photo Gallery.

Opening February 16, Desert Air: Photographs by George Steinmetz features images from the award winning photographer’s aerial journeys above the world’s deserts. Steinmetz piloted his own foot-launched, motorized paraglider— the lightest and slowest-moving aircraft in the world – to capture vast expanses of remote sand dunes, wildlife migrations and structures of human habitation in the world’s last great wildernesses.

Inspired by a 1997 assignment for National Geographic magazine on the Central Sahara, Steinmetz spent the last 15 years surveying and photographing remote and inhospitable desert environments around the globe. To capture his stunning images, he created and learned to fly an experimental aircraft consisting of a backpack motor and parachute-style wing. This unique motorized paraglider allowed Steinmetz to fly low enough to the ground to document rarely seen places.

“Not only are Steinmetz’ images breathtaking, they showcase what’s possible when you combine creativity with sheer innovation and engineering,” said Mark Patel, OMSI Vice President of Marketing, Retail and Sales. “It’s those amazing applications of science that we love to showcase at OMSI.”

As one of National Geographic’s top expedition photographers, Steinmetz has been photographing the remote corners of the world for 25 years. He has received many awards for his work, including two first prizes from World Press Photo, and Pictures of the Year, Overseas Press Club and Life Magazine’s Alfred Eisenstadt awards. In addition to articles in National Geographic magazine, his work has been featured in the New Yorker and Smithsonian magazines.

Desert Air: Photographs by George Steinmetz will be on display at OMSI February 16, 2013 – August 18, 2013. The price of the exhibits is included with paid museum admission. Members are free. For more information, visit www.omsi.edu.

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Next in the lineup for OMSI will be *RARE: Photographs by Joel Sartore*, providing rare glimpses of endangered species.

**About OMSI**
Founded in 1944, the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) is one of the nation’s leading science museums, a world-class tourist attraction, and an award-winning educational resource for the kid in each of us. OMSI is located at 1945 SE Water Avenue, Portland, OR 97214. For general information, call 503.797.4000 or visit [www.omsi.edu](http://www.omsi.edu).

**About National Geographic Traveling Exhibitions**
The National Geographic Society is one of the world’s largest nonprofit scientific and educational organizations and one of the world’s leading organizers of large-scale, traveling exhibitions. Since it launched “Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs” in 2004, National Geographic has organized two more Egyptian-themed exhibitions, “Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs” and “Cleopatra: The Search for the Last Queen of Egypt.” Other exhibitions National Geographic has organized include the four-city U.S. tour of “Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul.” National Geographic also offers a collection of photography exhibitions available to museums around the world. For more information, visit [http://events.nationalgeographic.com/events/exhibits](http://events.nationalgeographic.com/events/exhibits).

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