



Edward Burtynsky - Clip 14

Toronto Image Works

I graduated from Ryerson in 1982 and one of the more difficult moments was handing my cage card, which means... meant I had no more access to colour printing facilities.

So for the fa... the next three years, I set up my own darkroom in my basement and... and used drums and tried to make editions of prints in my basement.

Found that to be very difficult, very hard to be consistent. Colours drifted all over the place. And I was largely frustrated by that experience. And out of that frustration, I started thinking there's got to be a solution.

So I... when I went on out (?) the shoots, some of those long shoots I went on, I... I researched different places where people had access to colour darkrooms, through facilities in cities.

And I collected the information and decided that rather than being a commercial photographer and artist or teacher and artist, I decided to be businessman and artist and started a place called Toronto Image Works which would allow artists access to these facilities so that they could make their own prints, and at the same time afford me the luxury of having access to that equipment for myself.

And I think that actually played an important role in... in my development as a colour photographer, because I really had to learn everything there was to know about colour photography to run an operation like that.

And I think that, you know, notched me up a couple of levels in terms of my ability to make fine prints and large prints.

So I think Image Works has...has been a very important part of my development.

