Edward Burtynsky - Clip 4

The Large Format Camera

When I decided to do the project with the Wellan Canal, I was also introduced at the same time to a four-by-five camera. And I liked the richness of the tonal scale and the detail that came from a four-by-five camera.

And I also really immediately responded to the fact that the four-by-five camera slows you down, and it makes you really approach the subject from a very contemplative point of view. And... and that you... you begin to slowly unravel what would be the best point of view, what would be the best light.

And unlike a 35-millimeter camera which you can quickly just respond to something, go "click" and... you don't, I guess, take images as quickly with a four-by-five. You're... you're ... you're using more material, it's more expensive material. You have to really be careful about how much you shoot. And all those things played into the fact that it would slow me down and really make me look.

And... and once I got used to working with a large format camera, I didn't really ever want to go back.



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