

Edward Burtynsky - Clip 9

Working Method

a lot of the ways in which I develop my body of work or a body of work is it begins with research. So, let's say I'm doing mining and I start to explore mining, one of the things I did was I went and found a mineral map of North America where all the greatest deposits... and there were coloured dots for what the deposit was and where it was. And then I married up a mineral map with a map of towns and... and where those towns would be.

And then when I plotted my five-month trip, for instance, I would then go to all these mineral deposit areas and then figure out from there, the people would know which were the biggest mines and what is interesting. And I would explore from there.

Once I'd figure out what I wanted to photograph, I then would look at it, be concerned about points of view, like that would be interesting in the morning because the sun would be over there, this would be interesting in the afternoon. I'm looking for a cloudy or I... I would look at the conditions of... of... of the... the place and then start to put together what would be the best time to photograph that place.

And so I'm often looking at, you know, where my point of view is, the time of day I'm shooting, the point... and the conditions that

I'm looking for. And all these things play into the moment I decide to pull out the camera and start taking pictures.

So there are easily times where I would be going for three, four days around the subject matter that I want to photograph and not taking any pictures, just be waiting for the moment in which the... the conditions would be right for the image.

So it's very much a calculated and careful... again, with a large-format camera, I think it's one of the things it taught me was patience and... and being considerate of all the elements that you're working with. And then approaching the subject from a very kind of methodic point of view.

