

Gregory Colbert

Born in Toronto, Canada, in 1960, Gregory Colbert began his career in Paris in 1983 where he began making documentary films on social issues. Filmmaking led to fine arts photography. His first exhibition, *Timewaves*, opened in 1992 at the Museum of Elysée in Switzerland.

For the next ten years, Colbert did not show films or exhibit his art to the public. During this time, he did extensive underwater work in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and traveled to such places as India, Burma, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Dominica, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tonga, Namibia, and Antarctica to film and photograph wondrous interactions between human beings and animals. Since 1992, he has launched more than sixty such expeditions to collaborate with elephants, whales, manatees, sacred ibis, Antigone cranes, royal eagles, gyrfalcons, rhinoceros hornbills, cheetahs, leopards, African wild dogs, caracals, leopards, baboons, elands, meerkats, gibbons, orangutans, and other animals. Human subjects include Burmese monks, trance dancers, San people, and Colbert free diving with whales.

In 2002, Colbert presented the culmination of his singular work, *Ashes and Snow*, at the Arsenale in Venice, Italy, a twelfth-century 125,000-square-foot shipyard. It was the largest solo exhibition ever mounted in Italy. In spring 2005 the show opened in New York City in the first-ever Nomadic Museum. *Ashes and Snow* has since migrated in the Nomadic Museum to world capitals on four continents and has become the most attended exhibition by any artist in history.

