

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Sebastião Salgado. A Retrospective

Opening: Saturday, 25 October 2025, 2 pm – 7 pm
Duration: 29 October 2025 – 24 January 2026
Location: Galerie Bene Taschen, Lindenstrasse 19, 50674 Cologne



Sebastião Salgado, Chinstrap Penguins dive off Icebergs located between Zavodovski and Visokoi Islands, South Sandwich Islands, 2009 | Sebastião Salgado, The once-prestigious Jade Maiwan Avenue, Kabul, Afghanistan, 1996 | alle: © Sebastião Salgado

Galerie Bene Taschen is pleased to present a selection of the life's work of Brazilian photographer Sebastião Salgado (1944–2025) in a retrospective exhibition. Sebastião Salgado is regarded as one of the most important photographers of the 20th and 21st centuries. The exhibition *Sebastião Salgado. A Retrospective* brings together works from his series *Genesis, Workers, Gold, Exodus, and Other Americas*. At the same time, the Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum in Cologne will present the solo exhibition *AMAZÔNIA – Photographs by Sebastião Salgado*.

Together with his wife Lélia Wanick Salgado, Sebastião Salgado was committed to environmental protection. The couple founded the Instituto Terra, an organization dedicated to reforesting a region of Brazil's Atlantic Forest, protecting water sources, supporting scientific research, and promoting environmental education. More than 3 million trees have been planted in this area.

"For me, it is the last frontier, a mysterious universe of its own, where the immense power of nature can be felt like nowhere else on earth. Here is a forest stretching to infinity that contains one-tenth of all living plant and animal species – the world's largest single natural laboratory."
(Sebastião Salgado, 2021)

Genesis is one of Salgado's major bodies of work, taken on 32 journeys in regions around the world. Capturing the beauty of our planet, the project is devoted to nature in its original form that has endured despite human intervention and destruction. *Genesis* serves as a visual record of our planet and a tribute to its diversity. The *Genesis* exhibitions have been shown internationally, drawing over five million visitors.

In *Workers*, Salgado shows the labor of individuals from various countries and regions, practicing traditional work, their craftsmanship, and physical labor such as harvesting. Salgado himself described *Workers* as a "visual archaeology" of a vanishing working culture.

With *Gold*, Salgado focuses on work in the Serra Pelada gold mine in the Brazilian rainforest. In 1986, he documents the labor of more than 50,000 workers in a funnel-shaped area reaching 120 meters deep into the earth. Without the use of machinery, this terraced open pit mine was carved by human labor in search of gold.

Exodus documents the lives of people affected by flight, displacement, and migration. In six years, Salgado traveled to more than 35 countries to record global migration movements. The series *Other Americas*, created in the 1970s and 1980s, depicts Latin America in its cultural diversity.



Sebastião Salgado und seine Frau Lélia Wanick Salgado, photo: Yann Arthus Bertrand 2021 | Sebastião Salgado, Gold Mine of Serra Pelada, Pará, Brazil, 1986, copyright Sebastião Salgado

In 2014, the film ***The Salt of the Earth***, directed by **Juliano Ribeiro Salgado** and **Wim Wenders**, was released. In 2015, the biographical documentary of photographer Sebastião Salgado was nominated for an Oscar for Best Documentary Feature by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Sebastião Salgado's works are included in major institutional collections, including the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York; J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles; Deutsche Börse, Frankfurt am Main; Centre Pompidou, Paris; The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo; Tate, London; and many others.

Contact for information about the gallery and the artworks:

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