

PRESS RELEASE

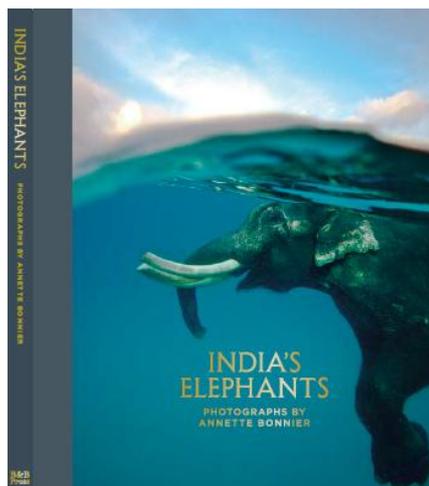
INDIA'S ELEPHANTS

by Annette Bonnier

Foreword by Steve McCurry

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Limited Edition with slipcover, £ 215



Documentary photographer, Annette Bonnier, shares her dual passion for India and elephants in this stunning book. Capturing the vibrant colours and spirituality that is evident in all aspects of life on the sub-continent, from everyday tasks to festive holy days, INDIA'S ELEPHANTS brings together more than 200 full-colour images taken by Bonnier over a three-year period.

Bonnier made her first trip to India in 2007 and fell in love with the people and their dynamic culture. She also became fascinated by the role of the elephant in Indian society, one that wavers between the animal as an enlightened, spiritual being and as a beast of burden, and felt compelled to record the many facets of the elephants' lives and their interaction with humanity.

Bonnier's first photos were of the elephants at the Amber Fort in Rajasthan, chained to the floor when not carrying tourists, and attentively cared for by their mahouts. It was a relationship that deeply moved her and she set out to capture the special bond that existed between man and beast. During her travels around India she witnessed elephants at work in the logging industry and in tourism; photographed wild elephants in Assam, polo playing ones in Jaipur, and even elephants swimming in the Bay of Bengal using their trunks as snorkels. She saw elephants painted and dressed for religious festivals, and blessing worshippers at Hindu temples.

In a country where Ganesh, the elephant-headed Hindu god, is treated as one of the highest gods, revered for his intellect and wisdom, she came to understand, and respect, the profound relationship between man and elephant in Indian society.

As attitudes to animal welfare and conservation change this complex and highly intelligent creature is caught in a changing world between past and future. **INDIA'S ELEPHANTS** is a collection of photographs that will not only delight and fascinate all who share Bonnier's love for India and elephants, but will act as a cultural documentation of elephants for years to come.

About the Author: *Miami-born Annette Bonnier studied Documentary Photography at the University of Florida. She has worked with eminent photographers such as Steve McCurry, and her photos have appeared in many publications including the New York Times. For further information go to www.annettebonnier.com.*

For an interview with the author or for more details on the book please contact Jane Beaton at jane@kewpublicity.co.uk or call 07802 433471.