



DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES — October 16, 2016 — Gulf Photo Plus is pleased to present the new exhibition “The Anthropocene” featuring photographic work by Richard Allenby-Pratt.

The exhibition brings together several photographic series, including “The Zoo”, “The Villas”, “Sabkha”, “Consumption” and others, that Richard Allenby-Pratt has created during his 16 years’ exploration of the UAE. At the core of his visual representation of the local nature is the notion of Anthropocene - a recent designation to describe the geological Epoch of man.

Since the start of the industrial revolution some 200 years ago, the human impact on the planet has been such that it will be recorded indefinitely in the physical record of the lithosphere (the Earth's crust) and the condition of the atmosphere. In ecological terms, as a result of the Anthropocene, the Earth has now entered a period of mass species extinction possibly only matched by the asteroid impact 66 million years ago that changed the earth's climate and resulted in the extinction of 75% of species on the planet.

The landscape of the UAE that for a long time remained almost entirely in its 'natural' state, has undergone a dramatic change in the past fifty years. As Richard Allenby-Pratt puts it in his statement “the arrival of oil wealth fueled an unprecedented economic boom and the exponential development has left barely any corner of the country untouched: the coastlines have been remodeled and the mountains ground up for the building aggregates that have created the futuristic cities”. He notes that even the parts of the desert that have so far escaped urbanization have become the playgrounds of recreational drivers. The groundwater has been extracted and improbable farms and forests have been planted. As a result, the surprisingly rich natural ecology of the UAE has been steadily marginalized into small conservation areas and visitor attractions.

“The Anthropocene” is a visual exploration of the sublime nature and landscape of the UAE which has to constantly confront the impact of the human’s presence. Richard’s photographs show the grandeur of the UAE deserts and mountains that can still be

dangerous to a human being and at the same time they show their fragility, the ease with which the natural balance can be destroyed.

The exhibition consists of over 30 photographs spanning from the beginning of 2000s up to the present day with some of the images produced specifically for the exhibition.

About Richard Allenby-Pratt

Richard Allenby-Pratt divides his time between the UK and Middle East. Most of his commissioned work is in the advertising and design industries and he is well known for his automotive and location work in particular. He also works as a feature photographer for international editorial publications. In recent years Richard has become increasingly committed to his personal projects creating conceptual imagery almost always inspired by the surrounding landscapes of the UAE. His photographs have toured with the London Association of Photographers Awards shows in 2011 and 2012 and appeared in the Art of Photography Show in San Diego in 2012. Richard contributed to a number of group shows: “Contemporary Landscape Photography” at Oceanside Museum (2013), “Arab Contemporary” at Louisiana Museum of Modern Art (2014). The “Scarcity-Waste” exhibition, where Allenby-Pratt participated as one of the finalists of Syngenta Photography Award, toured the world making stops in Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Milan, London. Richard contributes a regular photoblog to Green Prophet, the leading website dealing with issues of sustainability in the Middle East.

More info about Richard Allenby-Pratt [here](#).

About Gulf Photo Plus

Gulf Photo Plus (GPP) is the only dedicated center for photography in Dubai, UAE. With an expansive education programme, ambitious calendar of events, thought-provoking exhibitions and state-of-the-art printing facilities, GPP has long been established as the go-to place for both beginners and professionals to discover, enjoy, and learn more about photography.

Exhibition Details

Title: The Anthropocene
Address: Alserkal Avenue, Warehouse 36, Al Quoz, Dubai
Opening: 6:30pm on November 13, 2016
Dates: November 13 to December 31, 2016

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	From the “Dubai Zoo” series	© Richard Allenby-Pratt
	Harbour	© Richard Allenby-Pratt