



# MEDIA KIT

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Exhibition « Bee Cause I Care »

Galerie des Pêcheurs, Monaco

## ARTIST PHOTOGRAPHER VALENTINA EADE



Influenced by some of the greatest photographers of her time, such as Helmut Newton and Mario Testino, Valentina Eade is a portraitist and fine art photographer, and a graduate of the Spéos Institute of Photography in Paris (2011). Art is nothing new to Valentina. Growing up in the Far East of Russia, from the age of 9 through 14, she studied art and earned a diploma in Painting, Drawing, Composition and Art History from the Children's Art School, before going on to a higher education in Philology at the Amur State University, where she graduated in 2009. Since 2008, Valentina has traveled Europe, Central and North America, Asia and North Africa, broadening her sphere as a photographic artist.

Even though Valentina is a portraitist and a fine art photographer, she finds beauty and art in nature and is compelled to captivate that on camera. That is what motivated her for the most recent project to date – Bee Cause I Care, an environmental project that emphasizes and educates the public as to the number one threat to our world environment today – the disappearance of the bees. She is also the photographer for the non-fiction book, “Bless the Bees: The Pending Extinction of our Pollinators and What You Can Do to Stop It,” and the children's version, “A, B ee, See: Who are Our Pollinators and Why are they in Trouble.”

# BEE CAUSE I CARE



Using the powerful tools of images, Bee Cause I Care was designed to bring awareness to the public of the threats to nature by man's assault on the environment, which is actually an assault on mankind itself. Focusing on the importance of the pollinators to our environment, Bee Cause I Care is a collection of photographs designed to help people meet these essential creatures "face to face."

Their loss could signal that we are facing a "mass extinction," something biologists fear may be upon us now. If these biologists are right, this would be the sixth mass extinction in world history, the last one being the dinosaurs, and, instead of a meteor hitting the earth, which is suspected to be the cause of their demise, we (mankind) are the cause of it this time.

Pollination, whereby pollen grains are transferred in the reproduction and fertilization of plants, is an irreplaceable step in the reproduction of plants. Most plant fruits are unable to develop without pollination taking place and many beautiful flower varieties would die out if not pollinated. Evolution has produced this symbiotic relationship between the pollinators in the animal world and the plant world. Only 10% of flowering plants are pollinated without their assistance.

As such, pollinators are a crucial link in our food system. More than 85 percent of earth's plant species – many of which compose some of the most nutritional parts of our diet – require pollinators to exist. They are critical components of our environment, and are essential to our food security. Bees provide the indispensable and free service of pollination to more than 85% of flowering plants, contributing to 60% of global food production. 100 crop species rely upon bee pollination to some degree, making up 1/3 of the food supply, and valued in the billions of dollars. That's one of every three bites of your food, at every meal, every day. Without bees to pollinate our food we would have a worldwide food and economic epidemic.

Since 2006, the strange disappearance of entire colonies of honey bees has been referred to as colony collapse disorder (CCD). Many native pollinators, such as native bees, bats, birds, wasps and flies, also face extinction due to habitat destruction, climate change, lack of biodiversity and the use of pesticides.



**PICTO**  
Voir avec le regard de l'autre







## Bees and Monaco - successful cohabitation between nature and urbanisation

Excess mortality in bees, which has a variety of causes, currently has an impact on the pollination and production of fruit and vegetables on a global scale.

Yet many scientific studies have shown that the great diversity of wild bees identified in city centres is proof that extremely urban environments with an appropriate management approach can be of interest in terms of ecology and conservation.

The city is thus becoming a key location for the protection of this fauna and the preservation of the mutual relationship it has with both wild and cultivated flora.

It is for these reasons that in spring 2011, six hives were installed at the heart of the Principality on the roof terrace of the Stamp and Coin Museum in Fontvieille.

The Government of Monaco signed a partnership agreement with UNAF (Union Nationale de l'Apiculture Française) aimed, inter alia, at creating this apiary.

The setting up of this apiary in 2011 has led to the production of 150 kg of honey each year, but above all provides an indicator of the biodiversity in the Principality's natural areas and gardens and consequently of the ecological management of all green areas as a whole.

A pollen analysis of Monaco's honey shows a high percentage of citrus and Mediterranean flower pollen as regards the June harvest, and a concentration of palm-tree pollen, resulting in "exotic" type honey, for the September harvest.

In order to raise public and child awareness in the Principality and the surrounding area, the 20th June is now a day dedicated to bees. During these "APIdays", the Government of Monaco, in partnership with UNAF, organises workshops open to all. The day's programme includes demonstrations on how to extract honey, an educational exhibition "The bee, sentinel of the environment", photo exhibitions, beeswax candle workshops, fun and educational pamphlets, information on pollen and propolis, and honey tastings.

In July 2013, hotels for pollinating insects were set up in the Saint Martin Gardens on Monaco's rocher and in the neighbouring towns at various altitudes. They consist of open-air equipment comprising eight micro-habitats which can be used by almost all the 864 species of wild bee present in France, mainly to house their eggs or for hibernation purposes. The insects that use them are digger, carpenter, mason, leafcutter and cuckoo bees.

As part of the efforts conducted by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, created in June 2006 by the Sovereign Prince to address the worrying threats hanging over our planet, and more particularly for the protection of biodiversity, during the 2014 European Week of the Bee and Pollination, H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco made a statement to the European Parliament in Brussels:

"If pollination is no longer carried out by bees, this will certainly be reflected in the quality and quantity of fruit and vegetables and flora in general. Overall, more than one third of agricultural production directly depends on bees which pollinate 80% of flowering crops. They are therefore of vital importance for human food supply. »

The aim of this international conference was to raise the awareness of decision makers and the general public regarding the importance of the bee and its valuable pollination service at the time when the operational roll-out of the future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) was to be set in motion.

The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and the Government are working together to raise awareness at a national scale and protect the bee: a major species for human survival. This exhibition by Valentina Eade is a perfect illustration.