

BIOGRAPHY

Michelle Valberg is a globally recognized and celebrated photographer whose quest to capture the beautiful and unique on camera has taken her to all corners of the world. Valberg's stunning and at times haunting photographs are highly sought after by art collectors and have been showcased in various exhibits across North America, including New York, Los Angeles, Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal. In 2011, Valberg's work was the subject of a critically acclaimed 3-month solo exhibition at the esteemed Canadian Museum of Nature. Her work is displayed in Canadian embassies and consulates across the globe.

Valberg's images have appeared in National Geographic, The London Tribune, More Magazine, Reader's Digest, Canadian Geographic and In Style. Her work is also on Canada Post Stamps, on a Royal Canadian Mint Coin, numerous magazine covers and even airplane tails

Her travels have taken her to all seven continents. Valberg has explored her passion for Canada's Arctic, making 60 trips to Canada's north. She has become the 'go-to' Arctic photographer for various travel exhibitions and private clients wishing to capture their once-in-a-lifetime adventure in photographs. She works as a resource photographer for Adventure Canada, Abercrombie & Kent and Frontiers North Adventures.

Committed to mentoring entrepreneurs and fellow photographers, Valberg has remained involved with her alma mater, Algonquin College, where she holds the inaugural "Hall of Fame" induction for photography in the School of Media & Design. She was also named "Alumna of the Year" in 2005 and in 2018, she was given the Algonquin College Alumni of Distinction Award.

Besides her achievements as a photographer and entrepreneur, Valberg is a tireless philanthropist and community leader. She has held numerous director roles and board memberships. Michelle co-founded Project North, a not-for-profit organization dedicating to improving the lives of children living in the far north. She has been a guest speaker for

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countless organizations such as Nikon USA and Canada. She has received numerous accolades and awards over the years, notably two Premier's Award Nominations, the United Way Ottawa Community Builder of the Year Award and the Louie Kamookak Medal from the Royal Canadian Geographic Society.

A trusted and recognized entrepreneur in the Ottawa community, Michelle Valberg is the founder of Valberg Imaging – Ottawa's premier photography studio and gallery in operation for over 30 years.

Valberg has self-published four books: *Look Beyond... The Faces & Stories of People with HIV/AIDS*, *Dare to Dream... A Celebration of Canadian Women*, a children's book entitled *Ben and Nuki Discover Polar Bears and Arctic Kaleidoscope... The People, Wildlife and Ever-Changing Landscape*.

She is a fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographic Society as well as The Explorer's Club in New York City.

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WALL SPACE GALLERY
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CV

EDUCATION

- 1985-1987 Ontario College Diploma Algonquin College, Photography Program
1983-1985 University of Ottawa, Fine Art Program/Photography

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *Eye to Eye*, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON
2017 *Nature is Calling*, Project SPACE by Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON
2016 *Arctic Kaleidoscope*, Trinity Art Gallery, Shenkman Arts Centre, Ottawa, ON
2014 *Freedom*, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON
2013 *Arctic Kaleidoscope; The People, Wildlife and Ever-Changing Landscape*, Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, ON
2013 *Arctic Kaleidoscope; The People, Wildlife and Ever-Changing Landscape*, Exposure Gallery, Ottawa, ON
2013 *Arctic Kaleidoscope; The People, Wildlife and Ever-Changing Landscape*, New York City Explorers Club, New York, NY
2012 30-piece permanent collection, Maplesoft Centre, Ottawa, ON
2012 70-piece permanent collection, Ottawa Hospital, Ottawa, ON
2011 *Northern Lights Exhibition*, Ottawa Convention Centre, Ottawa, ON
2011 *Arctic Kaleidoscope; The People, Wildlife and Ever-Changing Landscape*, Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, ON
2009 *The Land, The People, The Life; Sights and Sounds of the Inuit*, Valberg Imaging, Ottawa, ON
2008 *Power of One*, Exhibition for the Bruyère Foundation, Ottawa, ON
2008 *The Floe-Edge*, A Novel Photography launch with Dorris Heffron
2007 *The Majestic & The Wild, South Africa & Kenya*, Valberg Imaging, Ottawa, ON
2006 *In the Shadow of Silence: 20 Years of Chernobyl*, Valberg Imaging, Ottawa, ON

AWARDS

- 2022 Top 10 Finalist – World Photography Cup
2019 Louie Kamookak Medal – Royal Canadian Geographic Society
2018 Algonquin College Alumni of Distinction Award
2018 United Way Ottawa Community Builder of the Year Award
2016 Nature Inspiration Award, Canadian Museum of Nature, Finalist
2016 Angel Award, Youville Centre
2015 Governor General Polar Medal Award, Nominee

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- 2015 Photo District News (US) – World in Focus, First Prize
- 2015 Photo Travel Award (International), Ribbon
- 2015 Narava International Photo Award, Ribbon
- 2015 Canadian Geographic Wildlife Competition, Honourable Mention
- 2015 National Geographic Top Shot
- 2014 Global Arctic Award (Russia), Honourable Mention
- 2013 Global Arctic Award (Russia), Bronze Medal
- 2013 The Prime Minister’s Volunteer Award, Nominee
- 2013 The Societies, Photography Contest, First Place
- 2012 Getty Images, “This is Canada” Photo Competition, First Place
- 2012 Ontario College’s Premier Award, Nominee
- 2012 Canadian Geographic Polar Photo Competition, Winner and Second Place
- 2011 Canadian Geographic Wildlife Photography Contest, Runner-Up
- 2010 CHEO’s Order of the Good Bear Award
- 2010 Canadian Geographic Wildlife Photography Contest, Runner-Up
- 2010 Ontario College’s Premier Award, Nominee
- 2009 United Way Ottawa Community Builder Award, Recipient
- 2008 Canadian Geographic Wildlife Contest, Honourable Mention
- 2007 Algonquin College, School of Media & Design, first Hall of Fame Inductee for Photography
- 2005 Algonquin College, “Alumna of the Year”
- 2004 Gunther Leonhardt Award for Excellence
- 2004 40 Under 40 Award, Recipient
- 2003 Ottawa’s Businesswoman of the Year by the Women’s Business Network
- 2002 Kitchissippi Volunteer Award, Recipient
- 2000 YMCA/YWCA Women of Distinction Award in the Arts Category, Recipient

RECENT PROJECTS + RECOGNITION

- 2019 *An Evening with Michelle Valberg* at the Canadian Museum of History
- 2019 Host of *A Night with Dr. Jane Goodall*
- 2019 Canadian Geographic July/August cover photo featuring Grasslands bison
- 2019 CREATIVELIVE names Michelle Valberg as “One of 8 Outdoor Photographers to Watch”
- 2019 Kermode, polar and black bear photo collection featured on Canada Post stamps
- 2018 One of twelve Nikon Ambassadors in North America chosen to launch the new Nikon Mirrorless Camera – keynote speaker in NYC at the biggest launch in Nikon’s history.
- 2018 Canadian Geographic Cover – Inuit from Gjoa Haven, Nunavut
- 2017 Outdoor Photographer US Magazine Cover – Arctic Fox
- 2017 Photograph “Mathew and Aaju” featured on Royal Canadian Mint coin in celebration of Canada’s 150th anniversary

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