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Amazing Photos of Endangered African Animals

By Paul Laster on Apr 12, 2012



Nick Brandt used to live life in the fast lane. As a music video director, Brandt worked with such talents as Jewel, Moby, and — most famously — Michael Jackson, but nowadays he spends much of his time just waiting, which means waiting for the right moment to snap a picture. While directing the video for Jackson's "Earth Song" in Tanzania in 1995, the British-born director discovered a new passion: the stunning, wild beasts of Africa. Switching from moving imagery to black-and-white photography, Brandt began a new career as a wildlife photographer in 2000 and by the end of the decade he had published several books and exhibited his amazing photos around the world.

So what makes his pictures different from the work of other photographers deep in the bush? Brandt never uses telephoto lenses. He wants to be as intimate with nature as he was with the stars he once brought to life on MTV. And to keep the focus on the wild creatures he now adores and has on view in a solo show at New York's Hasted Kraeutler Gallery, the photographer founded the Big Life Foundation in 2010 to protect endangered animals in East Africa, with the sale of his prints helping the cause. [Click through to view a few of our favorites.](#)