

# PAULA COOPER GALLERY

## **Eliot Porter**

Paula Cooper Gallery  
521 W 21<sup>st</sup> Street

A dedicated naturalist and amateur photographer since his childhood in Winnetka, Illinois and Penobscot Bay, Maine, Eliot Porter (1901-1990) pursued his first career in medicine (he taught biochemistry and bacteriology at the Harvard Medical School for a decade).

In 1938 when Alfred Stieglitz offered Dr. Porter a show at his celebrated gallery on Fifth Avenue, Porter decided to give up medicine and devote his full energies to photography. He received a Guggenheim fellowship three years later, and except for military research at MIT during the war years, Porter focused on employing the large-format camera and the unforgiving dye-transfer print as instruments of fine art.

Exhibitions at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art, and other prominent museums followed, as did more than a dozen books including *In Wildness is the Preservation of the Earth*, *The Tree Where Man Was Born* and other studies of "intimate landscapes" and natural history around the world. Eliot Porter died in 1990.

Each picture in this exhibit, whether color or black and white, is a vintage print made by Eliot Porter and selected by Jack Macrae, Porter's long-time editor, publisher, and friend. Kristoffer Haynes has co-curated the show with Mr. Macrae.

Proceeds from the exhibition will be donated to Carl Safina's *Blue Ocean Institute*.