

THE SYNAGOGUE AT BABYN YAR:

TURNING THE NIGHTMARE OF EVIL
INTO A SHARED DREAM OF GOOD

THE EXHIBITION TEAM



ROBERT JAN VAN PELT, CURATOR

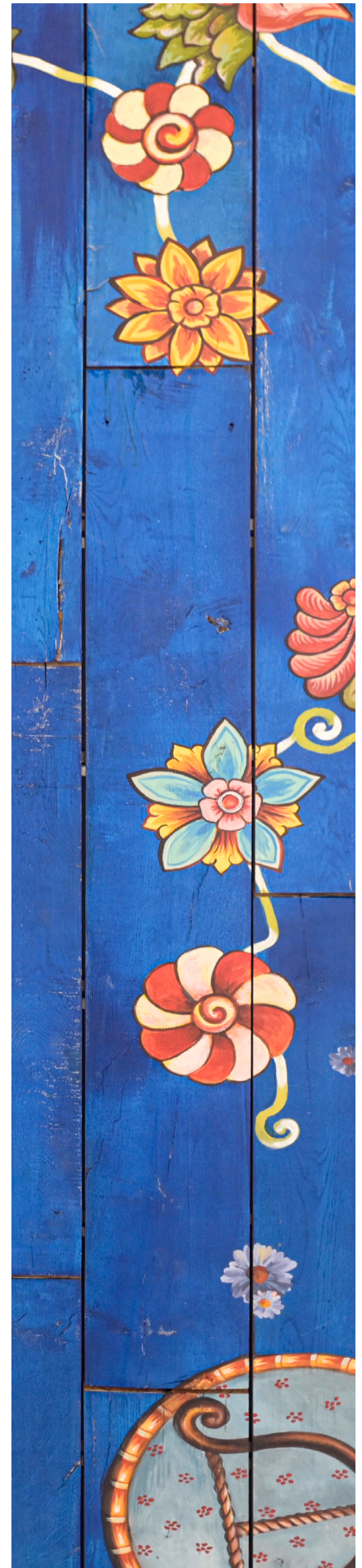
University Professor and Associate Director (Graduate Studies),
School of Architecture, University of Waterloo

Robert Jan van Pelt has taught at the University of Waterloo School of Architecture since 1987, and held appointments at many institutions of higher education in Europe, Asia and North America. He is the recipient of many academic honors, including the National Jewish Book Award and a Guggenheim Fellowship. He is recognized internationally for having developed the practice and term of “forensic architecture”.

He has published thirteen books dealing with diverse topics such as the cosmic speculations on the Temple of Solomon, relativism in architectural history, the history of Auschwitz, the history of the Holocaust, Jewish refugees, Holocaust denial, and most recently, *An Atlas of Jewish Space*, which accompanied the opening in 2021 of the new synagogue at the site of the Babyn Yar massacre in Kyiv. In the fall of 2022 he completed a 150,000 word monograph on the history of barrack.

An internationally recognized authority on the history of Auschwitz, van Pelt’s work was featured in a couple of BBC television programmes (1994 / 2005). Van Pelt chaired the team that developed a master plan for the preservation of Auschwitz (1997). Because of his expertise on Auschwitz, van Pelt has been involved in the struggle against Holocaust denial. He appeared in Errol Morris’s film *Mr. Death: The Rise and Fall of Fred A. Leuchter Jr* (1999) and served as an expert witness for the defense in the notorious libel case *Irving vs. Penguin and Lipstadt* (1998-2001).

His forensic work on the crematoria of Auschwitz generated *The Evidence Room* installation shown at the Venice Biennale and in various museums (2016-20). Van Pelt is the Chief Curator of the traveling exhibition *Auschwitz. Not Far Away. Not Long Ago*, shown to date in Madrid, New York, Kansas City, Malmö, and now on its way to Los Angeles. This exhibition has had 1.4 million visitors to date.



MANUEL HERZ, ARCHITECT

Manuel Herz Architects

Based in Basel, Switzerland, Manuel Herz is an architect whose practice is embedded in research, and is operating on a wide range of typologies, locations and scales, from the architectural to the urban and territorial. His completed projects include a housing project in Zürich that the New York Times described as “A Building that Dances”, a large hospital in Tambacounda in eastern Senegal, the Synagogue of Mainz, as well as the Synagogue for the Babyn Yar memorial area in Kyiv, Ukraine, and many other projects across Europe, Asia and the African continent. Beyond the architectural scale, Manuel Herz has been active in furniture and exhibition design, as well as in urban master planning and urban research. His projects have won numerous international awards, have been exhibited in museums worldwide, and acquired into the collection of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), amongst others. His office has been invited to design the Swiss Pavilion for the World-Expo 2025 in Osaka. He is a frequent participant in conferences and architectural biennales, including Venice, Chicago, Lisbon, and Valparaiso.

Manuel has taught at the ETH Zürich, Bartlett School of Architecture (London) and Harvard University Graduate School of Design (GSD). Subsequently, at the University of Basel, he was the co-founder of the Institute of Urban Studies, setting up the first interdisciplinary institute for urban research in Switzerland.

His research focuses on the architecture and urbanism of migration. His book “From Camp to City: Refugee Camps of the Western Sahara” documents how refugee camps can be places of social emancipation. At the Architecture Biennial in Venice in 2016, Manuel Herz curated and designed the National Pavilion of Western Sahara. His award-winning book “African Modernism - Architecture of Independence” presents the architecture of Ghana, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Kenya and Zambia at the time of their independence in the 1960s and 1970s. The parallel exhibition at the Vitra Design Museum has subsequently been shown at museums and cultural institutions in Europe, the US, and across Africa. Other books include “What is Critical Urbanism - Urban Research as Pedagogy” and “The Inevitable Specificity of Cities”.



EDWARD BURTYNSKY, EXHIBITION MURAL PHOTOGRAPHER

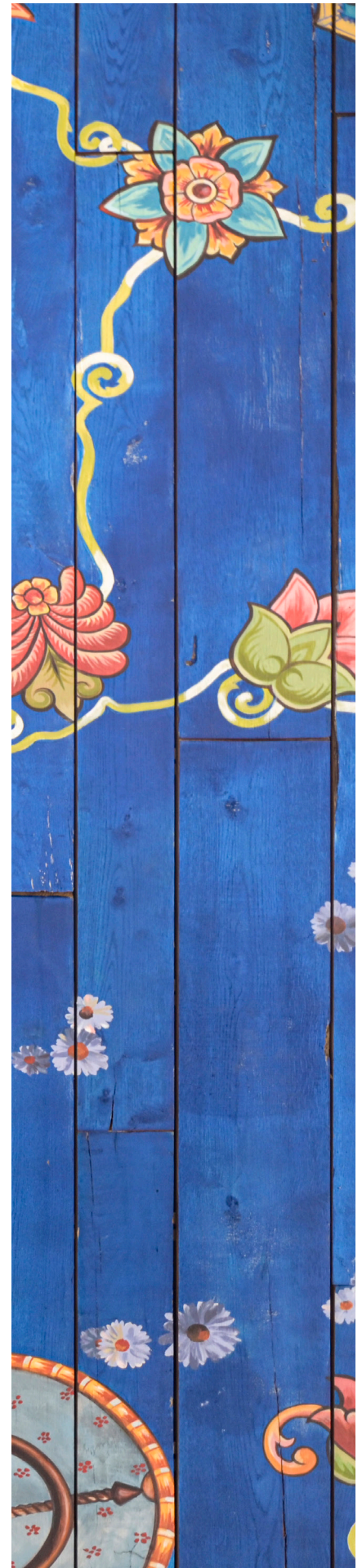
Photographer

Edward Burtynsky is widely regarded as one of the world's most accomplished and eloquent contemporary photographers.

His remarkable photographic depictions of global industrial landscapes represent over 40 years of dedication to bearing witness to the impact of humans on the planet. Burtynsky's photographs are included in the collections of over 80 major museums around the world. Major touring exhibitions include: Anthropocene (2018); Water (2013 - organized by the New Orleans Museum of Art & Contemporary Art Center, Louisiana); Oil (2009 at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington D.C.); China (2005 five-year tour), and Manufactured Landscapes (2003 - National Gallery of Canada).

Burtynsky's distinctions include the inaugural TED Prize in 2005, which he shared with Bono and Robert Fischell; the Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts; the Outreach award at the Rencontres d'Arles; the Roloff Beny Book award; and the 2018 Photo London Master of Photography Award. In 2019 he was the recipient of the Arts & Letters Award at the Canadian Association of New York's annual Maple Leaf Ball and the Lucie Award for Achievement in Documentary Photography. In 2020 he was awarded a Royal Photographic Society Honorary Fellowship and in 2022 was honoured with the Outstanding Contribution to Photography Award by the World Photography Organization.

Most recently he was inducted into the International Photography Hall of Fame and was named the 2022 recipient of the annual Pollution Probe Award. Burtynsky was also a key production figure in the award-winning documentary trilogy, Jennifer Baichwal's Manufactured Landscapes (2006), Watermark (2013) and ANTHROPOCENE: The Human Epoch (2018), the latter two of which he co-directed alongside Baichwal. All three films continue to play in festivals around the world. Burtynsky currently holds eight honorary doctorates.



DOUGLAS BIRKENSHAW, EXHIBITION PRODUCTION

Architect

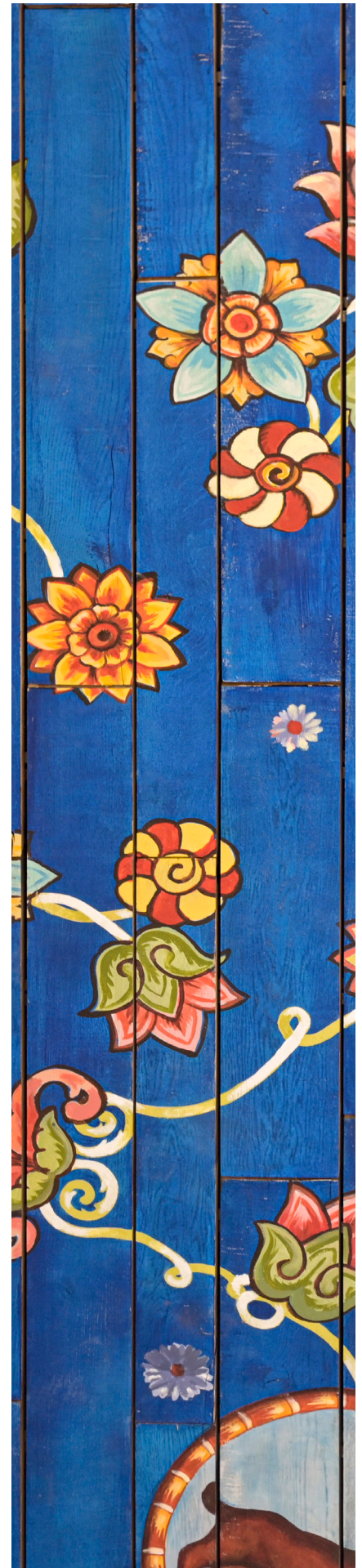
Douglas Birkenshaw is the senior Principal at Douglas Birkenshaw Architects Inc.. He sees large structures and infrastructure as positive forces in our communal landscape, and strives to make these structures humane and technically excellent. His diverse portfolio has been bolstered by his ability to forge relationships and work with complex multi-member teams. In his former position as a partner at B+H Architects, he led a diverse portfolio of major projects including universities, hospitals, sports centres, and other institutional work across Canada and internationally.

Hallmark projects include the AMS Student Nest at the University of British Columbia with DIALOG, the University of Windsor Ed Lumley Centre for Engineering Innovation, the Shanghai Microsoft Research Park, the Royal Ontario Museum Michael Lee-Chin Crystal with Studio Libeskind, and the recently completed Jackman Law Building at the University of Toronto with Hariri Pontarini Architects. He was one of the team of coordinating architects for the PanAm - ParaPan 2015 games in Toronto and the lead designer for the Markham PanAm Centre. Hospital projects include the 500,000sf addition and renovations to the Markham Stouffville Hospital and the 330,000sf addition to the Milton District Hospital.

Douglas worked with Robert Jan van Pelt in developing the 1997 Master Plan A Strategy for the State Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau. He also worked with Roberts' team mounting The Evidence Room at the Hirshhorn National Museum of Modern Art in Washington, D.C. This exhibition presents a forensic examination of the role architecture played in constructing Auschwitz.

Sustainability is perhaps the quality most associated with Douglas' work. He has always seen this as an essential part of architecture – not an afterthought or an encumbrance to design, but as a central driver of solutions and character. He is a LEED Accredited Professional and has lectured internationally on issues of sustainable design and tall wood structures.

Douglas holds a B.Arch and a B.E.S. from the University of Waterloo.



KOFFLER ARTS, EXHIBITION CREATOR & PREMIERE HOST

Anthony Sargent, Interim Director,
Koffler Arts

Over five decades Anthony Sargent has worked internationally as a cultural leader, continually exploring fresh ways of connecting the arts vividly with wider communities.

Over 13 years with BBC Radio and TV in presentation, production and management, he led the artistic planning of the BBC Proms festival, worked as a Producer in the BBC's elite Special Current Affairs Unit and a Creative Producer in the legendary BBC Radiophonic Workshop, and as a presenter for the BBC Radio 3 network.

After working as Artistic Projects Director of London's Southbank Centre, leading many of the centre's most ambitious interdisciplinary festivals, he became Birmingham City Council's Head of Arts for 10 years, representing Birmingham on the Culture Committee of Eurocities and leading all the Council's major arts projects, co-leading with Sir Simon Rattle Birmingham's acclaimed 10-year festival of the 20th Century, Towards the Millennium.

After working on the management of Millennium Music Live, the BBC's most ambitious nationwide music festival to date, he was founding General Director for 15 years of Sage Gateshead, also serving as a Board Director for the European Concert Halls Organisation bringing together Europe's top music centres, awarded an honorary D. Mus by Newcastle University, the Freedom of the Borough of Gateshead (the highest honour UK local authorities can bestow) and from HM the Queen, the CBE.

In 2015 he moved to Canada to lead Luminato Festival Toronto as CEO (including the 10th anniversary festival staged entirely in the ruined and abandoned Hearn Electricity Generating Station), and was elected Board Chair of the New York based International Society for the Performing Arts for whom he has presented 20 international editions of Pitch New Works on 5 continents.

Now an international cultural advisor and consultant, he has written two major global studies of the cultural learnings from the Covid-19 pandemic for the University of Leeds' Centre for Cultural Value, and in 2023 concluded his role as Interim Director of the Koffler Centre of the Arts in Toronto.

