

LANDSCAPES OF OIL

A Photo Essay by Edward Burtynsky

Edward Burtynsky, a world-renowned Canadian photographer, is known for his works showing the effects of energy industry on the landscape.¹ His “Oil” project consists of photos taken between 1999-2010 in a number of oil-producing regions in China, Azerbaijan, Canada and the United States. Burtynsky describes the scope of his project; “The car that I drove cross-country began to represent not only freedom, but also something much more conflicted. I began to think about oil itself: as both the source of energy that makes everything possible, and as a source of dread, for its ongoing endangerment of our habitat. I wanted to represent one of the most significant features of this century: the automobile. The automobile is the main basis for our modern industrial world, giving us a certain freedom and changing our world dramatically. The automobile was made possible because of the invention of the internal combustion engine and its utilization of both oil and gasoline.”



Thorold, Canada 2010



New Stockton, USA 1999



Los Angeles, USA 2009



Baku, Azerbaijan 2006



Fort McMurray, Canada 2007



Fort McMurray, Canada 2007



Baku, Azerbaijan 2006



Bakersfield, USA 2009



Pasadena, USA 2004



Westley, USA 1999



Walcott, USA 2003



Oakville, Canada 1999

NOTES

¹ The photographs included in this photo essay are printed in the Journal with the consent and permission of the photographer.