

THE ART OF ADVENTURE

THE EPIC VOYAGE OF ROBERT BATEMAN AND BRISTOL FOSTER



WINNER
BEST FEATURE MCA
WHISTLER
FILM FESTIVAL
2025

WINNER
BEST DOCUMENTARY
TRINITY COLLEGE
FILM FESTIVAL
2025

OFFICIAL SELECTION
VICTORIA
FILM FESTIVAL
2026

PREEL
FILM FESTIVAL
2026

OFFICIAL SELECTION
AVAILABLE LIGHT
FILM FESTIVAL
2026

WINDSOR
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
2025
OFFICIAL SELECTION

Official Selection 2025
VIFF
Portraits

OFFICIAL SELECTION
SALT SPRING
FILM FESTIVAL
2026

Santa Barbara
INTERNATIONAL
Film
FESTIVAL
OFFICIAL SELECTION

PRESS KIT

86 MINS, CANADA

LOGLINE

In 1957, world renowned wildlife artist Robert Bateman and spirited biologist Bristol Foster embarked on a global expedition in a Land Rover they called "The Grizzly Torque" - a journey that ignited a love deep love of our planet - and set in motion a powerful story of environmental activism through art and science.

SHORT SYNOPSIS:

Exhilarating Road Trip - Endearing Buddy Film - Environmental Love Letter

The Art of Adventure is an inspiring and deeply human documentary about the extraordinary lifelong friendship between world renowned wildlife artist Robert Bateman and fearless biologist Bristol Foster. Through their epic 1957 journey around the world - armed with a 16mm camera and an artist's brush - the film opens a vivid window onto a planet once wild and unscarred and a bond formed through curiosity, courage and love of nature.

At its heart the film weaves together nature, art and activism showing how two very different men fought to protect the natural world: one through art, the other through science. Now in their 90's Bob and Bristol still find sanctuary in nature. Their story is a moving reflection on legacy, mortality and the wisdom of our elders - and a reminder that humanity and nature are inseparable. The Art of Adventure invites us to listen, to learn and to embrace life with curiosity, courage and heart.





MEDIUM SYNOPSIS

In 1957, two adventurous young men, driven by their love of nature, set out on a global expedition in a rugged Land Rover they call The Grizzly Torque. Beginning in the UK, their journey takes them to the far corners of the earth, where they document extraordinary landscapes, creatures and cultures; one paints the wonders they encounter while the other captures them on a 16mm Bolex camera.

Sixty-eight years later, Robert Bateman, now a world-renowned wildlife artist, and Bristol Foster, an iconic biologist and filmmaker, remain deeply immersed in the natural world. As the decades pass, their journey of discovery evolves into one of activism. Weaving through time, we witness Robert's paintings and Bristol's work laying bare a deep concern for the environment.

Featuring dazzling archival footage and vibrant artistic depictions, The Art of Adventure offers a road movie experience, blending buddy humour and environmental awe. Through the lens of Robert and Bristol's 80-year friendship, we witness a lifelong bond—and a lifelong mission—come full circle.

ALISON REID DIRECTOR, PRODUCER

Alison Reid is an award-winning Canadian filmmaker known for stories of adventure and exploration of the human spirit. After a groundbreaking career as a stunt performer and one of North America's first female stunt coordinators, she founded Free Spirit Films to pursue bold, character-driven storytelling.

Her debut feature, the LGBTQ2+ comedy *The Baby Formula*, opened the Mannheim Heidelberg Film Festival in 2008 and screened worldwide. She went on to direct & produce the critically acclaimed feature documentary *The Woman Who Loves Giraffes*, which won multiple Best Film and Audience Awards and enjoyed a wide theatrical release across Canada and the United States. With positive reviews by *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *LA Times*, *Variety*, and *The Wrap*, the film holds a 100% Fresh rating on Rotten Tomatoes and continues to resonate with audiences worldwide.

Continuing her work spotlighting iconic, inspirational Canadians, Alison's new feature documentary *The Art of Adventure* celebrates a transformative 1957 journey by wildlife artist Robert Bateman and biologist Bristol Foster. Early on the festival circuit, the film is winning awards and finding enthusiastic audiences. When not making films, Alison enjoys directing television.



[IMDB Alison Reid](#)

[DGC Directors Page](#)



ROBERT MCLELLAN BATEMAN

WILDLIFE ARTIST, NATURALIST

<https://robertbateman.ca/biography.html>

Robert Bateman was born in Toronto, earned a degree in geography from the University of Toronto, then taught high school for 20 years, including two years in Nigeria. He travelled around the world in 1957-58, increasing his appreciation of cultural and natural heritage. Since leaving teaching in 1976 to paint full-time, he has travelled widely with his artist/conservationist wife, Birgit, to many remote natural areas. The family moved to Salt Spring Island in 1985.

Bateman has been a keen artist and naturalist from his early days. He has always painted wildlife and nature, beginning with a representational style, moving through impressionism and cubism to abstract expressionism. In his early thirties he moved back to realism as a more suitable way to express the particularity of the planet. It is this style that has made him one of the foremost artists depicting the world of nature.

In the '70s and early '80s, Bateman's work began to receive critical acclaim and to attract an enormous following. His work is in many public and private collections, and several art museums, including the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson Hole, WY. Bateman has had many one-man museum shows throughout North America, including an exhibition at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC in 1987. The retrospective show, *The Art of Robert Bateman*, toured Canada and the USA for two years.

Books about his life and art have had sales of over 1,000,000 copies. He has also been the subject of several films and television programs. His honours, awards and honorary doctorates are numerous and include Officer of the Order of Canada. It is in honour of Bateman's contribution to art, teaching and conservation that two schools and a community centre have been named after him; as well, he has been awarded 14 honorary doctorates.

His art reflects his commitment to ecology and preservation. Since the early 1960's, he has been an active member of naturalist and conservation organizations, now on a global scale. He has become a spokesman for many environmental and preservation issues and has used his artwork and limited edition prints in fund-raising efforts that have provided millions of dollars for these worthy causes.

Robert Bateman is perceived by many to be one of the voices of reason and hope for healthy, rejuvenated and creative engagement with the natural world.

He says, "I can't conceive of anything being more varied and rich and handsome than the planet earth. And its crowning beauty is the natural world. I want to soak it up, to understand it as well as I can, and to absorb it . . . and then I'd like to put it together and express it in my painting. This is the way I want to dedicate my life."



BRISTOL FOSTER (BIOLOGIST, NATURALIST)

Bristol Foster is a naturalist, conservation biologist and documentary filmmaker with a PhD in Ecology. He has over forty years of experience as an ecologist and educator. Bristol's illustrious career has included Head of Wildlife Ecology Graduate Studies program at the University of Nairobi (Kenya), Director of the Royal British Columbia Museum and Director of the Provincial Ecological Reserves program.

Bristol graduated with a degree in biology from the University of Toronto and became enthralled by Arctic biology. He spent two summers studying the ecology of a rare lemming-like mammal for his master's degree. Bristol then spent a year and a half traveling through Africa, Southeast Asia and Australia with wildlife artist Robert Bateman, before returning to Canada and completing his Ph.D.

His degree focused on the evolution of the native mammals of the Haida Gwaii, an archipelago lying south of the panhandle of Alaska. Bristol then headed to Kenya for five years to lead a graduate student program in wildlife ecology, eventually writing, with a colleague, the definitive book on the giraffe. From Africa he returned to become Director of the Royal British Columbia Museum in Victoria, B.C. After six years in this position, he became the Director of Ecological Reserves Program for the Province wherein over 100 areas have been set aside for research.

He then became ecological consultant, spending much of his time trying to protect the last remnants of temperate rainforest on the British Columbia coast and making TV documentaries all over the world.





DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Environmental films can often seem heavy or dire, but *The Art of Adventure* **invites audiences on a thrilling, joyful journey that entertains.** It weaves together adventure, friendship, art, and conservation, taking audiences into a world once wild and largely unscarred. It reveals how two very different men helped shape environmental thinking in Canada and beyond, and how their work continues to resonate at a moment of ecological urgency.

Bristol and Bob's curiosity, courage, and creativity make environmental stewardship feel accessible, exciting - and deeply human. With this spirit top of mind - ***The Art of Adventure* passes the torch to a new generation** - showing young people that protecting the planet can begin with curiosity, creativity, and a willingness to explore. At a time when both nature and cultural vitality are top of mind their story reminds us of who we are, what we value, and what is still worth protecting.

This film has the potential to make a real difference - and our **#AdventureWithPurpose Impact Campaign** takes the film **beyond traditional cinema audiences and use it as a catalyst for youth engagement, education, environmental responsibility, and cultural preservation.** By introducing new and influential audiences to the legacies of Bateman and Foster, and reconnecting older generations with their work #AdventureWithPurpose is designed to drive tangible outcomes: deeper engagement with nature, increased support for environmental organizations, and renewed celebration of Canadian icons. The campaign is designed as an integrated series of screenings, partnerships, and educational initiatives that work together to amplify the film's message and **translate inspiration into measurable environmental and social impact.**

At 95 and 93 years old, Bob and Bristol remind us of the treasure we have in our elders - their wisdom, humour, and deep wealth of experience. If we listen, they can teach us not only how to protect the world we share, but how to savour it. My hope is that *The Art of Adventure* leaves audiences smiling, moved, and inspired to embrace life with the same curiosity, courage, and heart.

WORLD PREMIERE
Vancouver international Film Festival



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THE ART OF ADVENTURE

GAME THEORY FILMS PRESENTS A FREE SPIRIT FILMS AND BEEVISION PRODUCTION "THE ART OF ADVENTURE"

FEATURING BRISTOL FOSTER ROBERT BATEMAN

EDITOR DAVE KAZALA, CCE DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY DALE HILDEBRAND MUSIC COMPOSED BY TOM THIRD KRISTJAN BERGEY JOEL SCHWARTZ
ARCHIVAL PRODUCER ELSPETH DOMVILLE ASSOCIATE PRODUCER MONE FLOWERS LINE PRODUCER NINA BEVERIDGE EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ANNE INNIS DAGG MARY DAGG

DIRECTED AND PRODUCED BY ALISON REID

PRODUCED WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF TELEFILM CANADA, CANADA MEDIA FUND, ONTARIO CREATES, THE ROGERS DOCUMENTARY FUND, HOLLYWOOD QUOTE, DEK, FILM AND TELEVISION TAX CREDIT ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO, CANADIAN FILM OR VIDEO PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT
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