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**2021 National Geographic Live Virtual Speaker Series
Feb 10 – Apr 14, 2021**

Editor's Note: Images are available [here](#).

January 26, 2021 (Mesa, AZ) – Mesa Arts Center is thrilled to announce the **2021 National Geographic Live Virtual Speaker Series**. The series will offer audiences stunning imagery and stories from National Geographic's world-renowned photographers, scientists, authors, filmmakers, conservationists, and adventurers from the comfort of home. Tickets to the virtual series are on sale now at mesaartscenter.com or by calling 480-644-6500.

"We're excited to be part of such an inspiring speaker series," said Randall Vogel, Assistant Director of Mesa Arts Center. "*National Geographic Live* continues to make the world around us more accessible with leading explorers and storytellers sharing their experiences of resilience, bravery and ingenuity."

National Geographic Live is the live events division of National Geographic. Its broad roster of talent, including renowned photographers, scientists, authors, filmmakers and adventurers, share their behind-the-scenes stories from the front lines of exploration alongside stunning imagery and gripping footage to audiences throughout the United States and abroad. For more information on *National Geographic Live* and other National Geographic events, please visit nationalgeographic.com/events.

Scientific Exposure

Photographers Anand Varma and Prasenjeet Yadav

February 10, 2021 8 p.m.

Virtual Event | \$20

Natural history photographers working with National Geographic have often emerged from scientific backgrounds, enabling them to reveal wildlife and our natural world in surprising ways. Molecular biologist-turned-photographer Prasenjeet Yadav combines his experience in research with his photography skills to highlight natural history and science stories in Asia. And Anand Varma has developed innovative techniques to create stunning images of creatures whose details are otherwise invisible to the naked eye. Join these National Geographic Explorers for stories and conversation on the intriguing intersection of science and photography.

Reimagining Dinosaurs

Paleontologists Nizar Ibrahim and Sebastián Rozadilla

February 24, 2021, 8 p.m.

Virtual Event | \$20

Groundbreaking new science is changing what we thought we knew about how dinosaurs looked, moved, and lived. Newfound troves from the Moroccan desert suggest that the immense predator *Spinosaurus* used crocodile-like jaws and a unique, paddle-like tail to actively pursue prey in the water: a first for dinosaurs. And in Chile, scientists have discovered a shocking new theropod. Unlike its cousins, *Velociraptor* and *T. rex*, *Chilesaurus* consumed a vegetarian diet. Join leading paleontologists and National Geographic Explorers Nizar Ibrahim and Sebastián Rozadilla for stories and conversation about the evolving science of dinosaurs.

Feats of Filmmaking

Bryan Smith, Filmmaker and Keith Ladzinski, Photographer

March 17, 2021, 8 p.m.

Virtual Performance | \$20

Meet two National Geographic filmmakers renowned for capturing extreme feats of adventure in some of the world's most remote and inhospitable environments. Based out of British Columbia, Bryan Smith brings stories of adventure to the screen from the South Pacific's deepest canyons to the frozen waters of Niagara Falls. Keith Ladzinski takes on the seemingly impossible—including chasing tornadoes, hanging from massive natural arches, and swimming with alligators—to document the endeavors of the world's most elite adventurers.

Mysterious Seas

Diva Amon, Deep Sea Biologist and David Gruber, Marine Biologist

March 31, 2021, 8 p.m.

Virtual Performance | \$20

Get a glimpse into the ocean's greatest depths—and the fascinating creatures that live there—with two leading marine biologists. National Geographic Explorer David Gruber searches the oceans for bioluminescent and biofluorescent marine species and designs delicate and noninvasive tools for studying and interacting with deep-sea life. Diva Amon participates in expeditions around the world to study the unusual animals living in a variety of deep-sea habitats—and how humans impact them. Through stories and conversation, they'll shine a light on this dark, cold, and mysterious world.

Women and Migration

Danielle Villasana, Photojournalist; Miora Rajaonary, Documentary Photographer; Saiyna Bashir, Photojournalist; Jennifer Samuel (Moderator), Photo Editor

April 14, 2021, 8 p.m.

Virtual Performance | \$20

Never before has the world been more tightly woven and the movement of people greater between and within continents and countries. Although COVID-19 has slowed migration, in 2019 more than 270 million people—nearly half of them women—were living in countries other than the one where they were born. Drawn by the promise of a better future, women increasingly have traveled to wealthier countries, taking jobs in child- and eldercare and domestic work, as well as manufacturing and agriculture—a shift described as “the feminization of migration.” For women who are forced to leave home because of famine or violence, migration is a gamble for their very survival.

The Arizona ***National Geographic Live!*** Series is sponsored by **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona**.

Mesa Arts Center is located at One East Main Street in downtown Mesa.

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About Mesa Arts Center

Mesa Arts Center, owned and operated by the City of Mesa, is a unique, architecturally stunning facility located in the heart of downtown Mesa. Arizona's largest arts center is home to four theaters, five art galleries, and 14 art studios. Guests, patrons, and students come to Mesa Arts Center to enjoy the finest live entertainment and performances, world-class visual art exhibitions, and outstanding arts education classes. Mesa Arts Center's mission is to inspire people through engaging arts experiences that are diverse, accessible, and relevant. For more information, visit [mesaartscenter.com](https://www.mesaartscenter.com).