

HONEY GATHERERS



FOLLOWING «THE WORLD OF THE BEES», A NEW EXHIBITION
FOR 2009

PHOTOGRAPHY: ERIC TOURNERET
TEXT: SYLLA DE SAINT PIERRE

www.lepeupledesabeilles.com - www.thebeephotographer.com - www.elmundodelasabejas.com
Contact : fenêtre sur / Nicolas Demnard - Tél : 06 16 96 70 01 - Courriel : fenetresur@gmail.com

1. INTENTION AND REALIZATION



*Since the dawn of time, honey is highly coveted by Man...
Like the nectar of the gods.*

Intentions:

Following the traveling exhibition and book « Le peuple des abeilles », published in 2007, Eric Tournet is preparing a never before seen panorama, superbly illustrated, of the bee throughout the world that offers a vast portrait of the relation of Man to the bee.

This journey through time and space brings to light the cultural and spiritual differences in the rapport of Man to the bee, in his relationship, sacred or dominating, with Nature.

The project:

With ten features from five continents, the photographer illustrates the relation of Man to the bee; from the most rudimentary honey gathering by the hunter-gatherers of the Himalayas to the industrial exploitation of bees for the royal jelly in China; from the pollination of almond trees in the United States to nighttime harvesting in the Cameroonian brush...

Four large families of bees, the *apis mellifera*, the *apis dorsata*, the *apis melipona*, the *apis trigona* and several sub-species of the *apis mellifera* buzz around in the heart of these images.

Honey is a staple product. Its history places it in the heart of human culture, because its non-perishable character made it a bartering object beginning with the first human societies.

The richness of the subjects makes it a totally new reference work for the apicultural world, one that reflects and pays tribute to Man's work.

The exhibition is destined for a wide public and its universality gives it an international dimension. It recounts the histories of Man, bee and nature in words and images.

2. THE AUTHOR



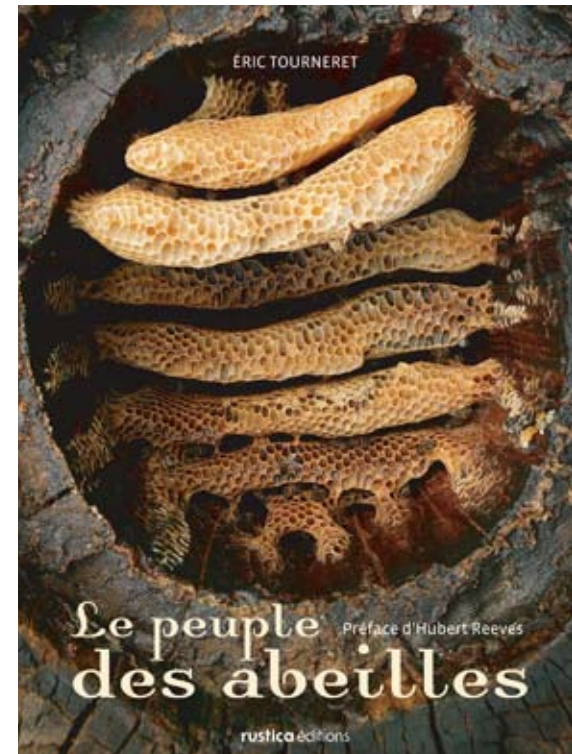
Photojournalist since 1989, Eric Tourneret, 43 years old, is a specialist of the French and international magazine press.

He publishes regularly in magazines like Paris Match, Le Figaro Magazine, VSD, Sciences et Avenir, Geo, Point de vue, Femme Actuelle, Ça m'intéresse.

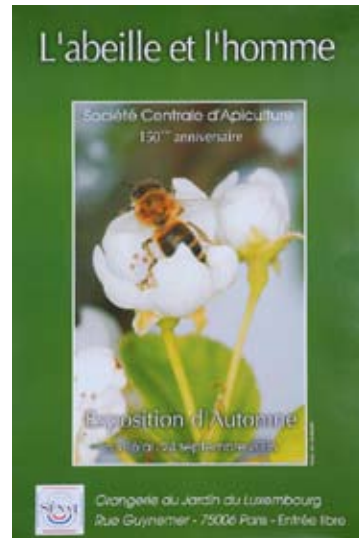
Specializing in beautiful photographic stories, he travels the world, with as his favourite subjects questions of society, voyage and wildlife.

His double experience as a studio photographer and a photojournalist permits him to treat very diverse subjects, from decoration to the world of the handicapped.

"This fundamental work on the bee, nature and man is for me a commitment. I am conscious of the urgency for humanity to finally take global and effective action to protect nature. To give concrete expression to my commitment, I am also a member of the association of Writer Journalists for nature and ecology."



3. PAST AND UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS



- September 16 to 24, 2006
Exhibition "The Bee and Man, a long shared history" for the 150th anniversary of the Central Society of Apiculture
Orangerie du Sénat, Luxembourg Gardens, Paris.

- September 2006
Exhibition for the 20th anniversary of the educational apiary
15th arrondissement town hall in the Parc Georges-Brassens, Paris.

- October 12 to 15, 2006
National apiculture conference in Bourg-en-Bresse (Ain).

- February 3 and 4, 2007
Exhibition in St-André-de-la-Marche, (Maine-et-Loire).

- October 12 to 18, 2007
Exhibition in Ingrande (Indre) at the Maison de l'Apiculture.

- October 19 to 21, 2007
Exhibition in Castres (Tarn) for the autumn university of the UNAF.

- March 15 to 30, 2008 at the Château in St-Jean-de-Braye (Loiret)

- September 1 to 30, 2008 Exhibition in the eco-museum of the Perche (Orne).

- 24 September to October 25, 2008 in Lille

- November 10 to 17, 2008 in Louvain la Neuve (Belgium)

- May 30 to September 30, 2009, selection for the festival "Peoples and Nature in La Galicy (Ille-et-villaine).

















4. THE COUNTRIES VISITED

Mexico

In the state of Puebla on the foothills of the Sierra Madre, the association Tosepan, which groups together 5,600 Nahuatl Indian families, markets the honey from *Scaptotrigona* bees. This small bee without sting builds a wax nest of which the honeycombs are reserved for brood cells. The stocks of honey and pollen are kept in stores the size of a tennis ball.

In the Yucatan, an organization of Mayan women, Ah Mucen Kab, preserves the last of the *Melipone beecheini* bees, whose honey at the time of the Mayas was a foodstuff enjoying flourishing trade. Despite a crop less abundant than those from bees of European origins, this honey is today sought after in Mexico for its therapeutic properties.

Cameroon

The Gbayas of the Adamaoua forest still practice an ancient honey gathering procedure, by putting to sleep with a plant the wild swarms found around gigantic trees.

The initiated, clothed in armour of plants, climb 30 meters up a rudimentary rope and battle with the *Apis mellifera Adansonii* bees known for their aggressiveness. Just simply spectacular, this harvesting procedure is practically no longer practiced, giving way today to a sedentary apiculture.

Argentina

In the Rio Parana delta, one of the five largest deltas in the world, the beekeeping boatmen bring their hives in transhumance onto the thousands of isles that flower in spring. The colourful hives are set on piles to protect them from unpredictable flooding caused by diluvian rains. For four months, the bees enjoy the rich honeydew of the aquatic flora in the heart of an exuberant ecosystem.

Nepal

The initiated amongst the Rai people, the tiger men of the Vedas, leave each spring to brave the cliffs to gather the cakes of honey from the *Apis laboriosa*, the fattest bee in the world. Holding on to a ladder of braided bamboo, 80 meters above the ground, the "guru" harvests for four hours under the vibrant attacks of thousands of bees.

Hailed in the sacred texts as a nectar of immortality, the honey from the poisonous rhododendron is also one of the most expensive. Despite its price the inhabitants of the Bung valley, again this year, did not sell it. To care for the animals and the people, they share the crop amongst four villages.

Rumania

Despite the ecological devastation of the Ceausescu era, Rumania still has stunningly beautiful landscapes, where farming techniques are still quite close to the traditional scene of the countryside in days gone by. From the green sprinkled with gold on the Maramure hills to the sky blue of the Danube delta, the Rumanian beekeeper practices a transhumance of their hives in colourful trailers. A subject of warm human density, one that speaks of culture, Europe and development.

Russia

In the south of the Urals, there lives a bee resistant to temperatures much lower than those that its European cousins can bear. Is that the reason why the Bashkir beekeepers put it high up in the trees? The hives are hollowed out more than eight meters above ground, in the trunks of giant conifers transformed into living hives to protect them from bears. The harvest takes place at the end of summer, with the beekeepers harnessed like tree pruners. This quite uncommon apiculture is practiced in the heart of the Republic of Bashkortostan, which has just put into operation a program to protect the local bee.

United States (January 2008)

In January, the enormous trucks of the apiculturists from the West of America converge from the national parks heading towards the fertile plains of California. The pollination of almond trees uses thousands of hives and the disappearance of the pollinating insects make prices skyrocket. A hive rents for \$150 for three weeks of pollination. In the context of the disappearance of these insects, a family of American beekeepers since four generations are the actors in this "road movie" with, as its background, landscapes without horizons. A story of an American legend and the environment.

New Zealand (November 2008)

Iran (March 2009)

China (April 2009)

5. SPECIFICATION SHEET AND RENTAL TERMS



Technique:

10 stretchers 300 cm x 200 cm exterior canvas sheets classed M1

30 framed works 120 cm x 80 cm clip frame and passe-partout

60 framed works 50 cm x 40 cm clip frame and passe-partout

10 foam rubber panels for text and 30 panels for captions.

Transport:

The exhibition will be sent in cases. The exhibition's host must pay the transport costs.

Installation:

The host organization is in charge of the hanging and the taking down. An advisor for the installation is possible upon request.

Insurance:

The works must be insured by the exhibition's host during transport and for the duration of the exhibition.

The insurance must be based on the real value of the prints (13,000 €). An insurance certificate called "from nail to nail" must be provided by the host organization before the departure of the works.

Public relations and media about the exhibition:

Any support created for public relations about the exhibition must receive the backing of the author. A copyright-free photo will be provided for communications use, it must always be accompanied by the name of the author.

Rate:

Rental of the exhibition The Honey Gatherers "ready to install" for one month: 3800 €

Options:

- Rental of the exhibition the World of the Bees as an educational complement on the biology of the bee and apiculture in France

2500 €

- Projection "The world of the bees" with sound

400 €

With the exhibition:

Presence of the photographer (inauguration, discussions, etc.), 200 € + travel costs.