



Curiosity and Control

A FILM BY ALBIN BIBLOM PRODUCED BY ADAM MARKO-NORD AND SARA WALDESTAM
 WITH PENELOPE BODRY-SANDERS, PETER VAN MENSCH, DALE JAMIESON, KIERAN STANLEY, MICHEL SAINT JALME,
 ÉRIC BARATAY, DAVID HANCOCKS, STEPHEN C. QUINN CAMERA ALBIN BIBLOM ADDITIONAL CAMERA MARTIN LIPPMANN
 EDITED BY BERNHARD WINKLER AND ALBIN BIBLOM MUSIC GORAN KAJFES AND DAVID ÖSTERBERG GRADING NILS FRIDÉN
 A CO-PRODUCTION WITH SVT/KSPECIAL EMELIE PERSSON WITH THE SUPPORT OF SWEDISH FILM INSTITUTE/CECILIA LIDIN
 A PRODUCTION BY ALPHAVILLE 2.0



“I’ve come to the conclusion that to be loved by a human being is not necessarily something you actually want to experience, because there is a very fine line between loving something and possessing it” David Hancocks

SYNOPSIS

Curiosity and Control is about our relation to the natural world. Filmed in New York, Chester, Paris, Berlin and Stockholm, the film is a journey through museums of natural history and zoological gardens with reflections upon these by historians, architects, zoo directors and a museologist. The stories deal with wonder, curiosity, control, the urge to protect and how to connect with the natural world.

The film also portrays the legendary explorer Carl Akeley, who is often called “the father of taxidermy” and his creation of the dioramas at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Included in *Curiosity and Control* is Carl Akeley’s first ever filmed footage of wild mountain gorillas. These early dioramas were intended to spread awareness about the natural world just as contemporary zoological gardens aim to connect people with nature. As we follow the construction of an extension of Chester Zoo, UK, called “Islands”—an immersion exhibit resembling South East Asia, the participants discuss how nature was presented in the past and present; Can nature be reconstructed, do we learn anything in zoos and for whom do we really preserve nature?

Curiosity and Control explores the thin line between curiosity, dominion, love and control.



BACKGROUND

“Science is a jealous mistress and take’s little account of man’s feelings”, Carl Akeley wrote in his diary 1926, during his expedition in Belgian Congo while collecting specimen for the dioramas at American Museum of Natural History. The killing of gorillas affected Akeley to the extent that he later would urge to create a sanctuary for mountain gorillas, realising that the extensive hunting and collecting would lead to extinction.

The background of *Curiosity and Control* started out in the 90’s; spellbound by Akeley’s dioramas and as a frequent visitor to zoological gardens I travelled around photographing the attempts to recreate “nature” in museums and zoos. The ambiguous feelings these places evoked would over the years form the base for the documentary *Curiosity and Control*. Encouraged by my producer Adam Marko-Nord I went back to the dioramas-still the same-and also to the many zoological gardens that hadn’t changed much, approaching these institutions as places of longing, prestige, preservation, projections and order.

Our complex relation to nature involves the thin line between admiration and exploitation as well as bringing order into the world that surrounds us. As former zoo director David Hancock’s put’s it: “There’s a fine line between loving something and possessing it”.



ABOUT THE DIRECTOR:

Albin Biblom is a photographer and filmmaker who has made several exhibitions internationally. He has also worked as a DoP on many award winning documentary films. He made his first film, “Mechkar-the story of a Bulgarian Bear Owner” in 2005. “Curiosity and Control” is his first feature documentary.

www.albinbiblom.com

ABOUT THE PRODUCER:

Adam Marko-Nord, producer and director at Alphaville AB, a production company based in Stockholm, Sweden. With over 15 years of experience, Alphaville produces tv-series, feature documentaries and animation.

www.alphaville.se



Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin.

PRODUCTION FACTS:

Director, script, cinematography: Albin Biblom
Producers: Adam Marko-Nord and Sara Waldestam
Production company: Alphaville AB
Editors: Bernhard Winkler & Albin Biblom
Assistant editor: Jonas Wessman
Music: Goran Kajfes & David Österberg
Additional cinematography: Martin Lippmann
Grading: Nils Fridén
Archival footage: American Museum
of Natural History, NY, USA, BBC
Form: Digital HD/s-8mm/archival footage
Language: English & French with English subtitles
Length: 58 min

Co-produced with:
The Swedish Television/Kspecial, Emelie Persson
With support by:
The Swedish Film Institute/Cecilia Lidin
The Swedish Arts Grants Committee
Nordvision, Yle & DR

PARTICIPANTS:

Penelope Bodry-Sanders,
Kieran Stanley, David Hancocks,
Stephen C. Quinn, Dale Jamieson
Peter Van Mensch, Éric Baratay,
Michel Saint-Jalme, Mark Pilgrim.

CONTACT:

Adam Marko-Nord/Alphaville
Tjärhovsgatan 40
116 28 Stockholm, Sweden
Tel: +46.(0)736834289
E-mail: adam@alphaville.se
www.alphaville.se