

amomentintime...



Snow leopard, *Panthera uncia*



...captured by **Stephen Oachs** "I have a deep passion for wildlife, and when I had the chance to photograph this endangered cat, I jumped at the opportunity to help expose their plight and share how special they are. Snow leopards are stealthy and intense, and amazingly beautiful. Their movements are mesmerizing, and their distinctively marked coats are a perfect blend of beauty and function. My admiration for these spectacular cats is boundless. It is tragic that they are so endangered. To capture this image, I was lying on my stomach in the snow. My fingers were nearly frozen to the shutter trigger, but I was ready to capture the moment the cat descended the nearby hillside. I wanted to be sure the tail, so beautiful and so crucial to an individual's survival, was included in the image. What I ended up with was beyond what I could have hoped for – the tail curling in the background, with the eyes focused right on me in the foreground, made for a powerful image that I'm very proud to have in my portfolio."

Equipment: Canon 1D Mark III, Canon 100-400mm, 370mm, f/7.1, 1/350 sec

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You can buy copies of this spectacular image from the Snow Leopard Trust. All proceeds go to help conserve snow leopards. Quote PTES for 10% off the RRP.