

amomentintime...



Bowhead whale skeleton *Balaena mysticetus*



...captured by **CHRIS PACKHAM**

"I recently set off to the Canadian high arctic with high hopes of realising a dream... seeing narwhal in the flesh. Our route would also give us what should be a pretty good chance of bowhead whale and polar bear, not to mention seals including the charismatic walrus. I had a good trip, but let me cut to the quick. I saw no living narwhal, just severed heads on the beach; no other cetaceans at all and the seals and bears were very, very timid. Why? Well, the local people have a 'cultural exemption' when it comes to hunting and the scale of the slaughter seems staggering. The problem is seemingly compounded by a desperate need to be politically correct and not even question the morality of this situation. This photo is of a long dead bowhead skull on a desolate beach, if not a portent then at least a mirror for my mood that day. It's time to ask some serious questions."

Nikon D300 , AF-s Nikkor 17 - 55mm F2.8 , 1/20 sec , F22 , RAW File , Lightroom 2