



## Bryant Austin—Photographing “Whale Scale”

SANTA CRUZ, CA— Join Bryant Austin, an experimental multi-media artist whose life-long passion has been exploring the depths of possibility in connecting humanity with some of the greatest minds in the water—whales—for Science Sunday on Father’s Day on June 16 at 1:00 PM at the Seymour Marine Discovery Center. His journey and challenge to recreate the transcendent sensation one experiences floating an arm’s length away from the eye of an inquisitive whale, has compelled him to create breathtaking photo mosaics at “whale scale” — both in terms of size and in the level of detail witnessed in “real life,” hoping to inspire conservation through art.

Whales are one of the largest and most intelligent animals in the world. In 1986, the International Whaling Commission banned commercial whaling in order to save endangered whales and to protect their habitats. Still, centuries of intensive hunting left most whale species in shambles. Since whales reproduce slowly, scientists worry they're now more vulnerable to threats like pollution and ship strikes that might have otherwise been minor. Despite international efforts, several countries around the world continue to hunt whales for commercial products.

Austin's body of work represents the largest and most detailed photographs of whales in the world. He'll share the story behind creating these remarkable photographs and his efforts to use art to inspire people to take the future of whales—endangered throughout the oceans—into their hearts. Sylvia A. Earle says in her foreword to his new book, *Beautiful Whale*, “As an ambassador from the ocean—and to the ocean—Bryant Austin is not only a source of inspiration. He is cause for hope.”

Austin’s book, *Beautiful Whale* is available in the Seymour Marine Discovery Center’s Ocean Discovery Shop. He will be available to sign copies of his book immediately after his talk.

Located in Santa Cruz on the bluffs overlooking Monterey Bay, the Seymour Center provides exciting and engaging ocean education programs for the visiting public and for students of all ages. It is dedicated to educating youth, families, and the general public about the role science plays in the understanding and conservation of the world's oceans. The Seymour Center is open six days a week, year-round, and serves

more than 65,000 people each year.

WHAT: *Science Sunday at the Seymour Center*  
Beautiful Whales

FEATURING: Bryant Austin, Photographer and Conservationist

WHEN: Sunday, June 16, 2013  
1:00 PM

WHERE: Seymour Center at Long Marine Lab  
End of Delaware Avenue  
Santa Cruz, CA

ADMISSION: Free with admission to the Seymour Center  
(\$6 Adults / \$4 Students or Seniors)  
**Free for Seymour Center Members and UC Santa Cruz  
undergraduates with valid student ID**

INFORMATION: (831) 459-3800 or <http://seymourcenter.ucsc.edu>

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