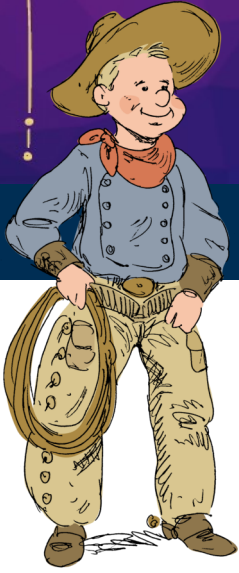


# Robert Glenn Ketchum & Eliot Porter:

## On Seeing Color

### Rodeo Joe's Family Guide



***On Seeing Color*** features color photographs by Robert Glenn Ketchum and his friend and **mentor** Eliot Porter. A **mentor** is a person who teaches or gives help and advice to someone who is less experienced. Artists often have mentors who help them learn their craft. Both Ketchum and Porter photographed animals and **landscapes** (natural scenes like rivers, mountains, forests, and valleys). The photos they took are beautiful, but they are “more than just pretty pictures.” Ketchum and Porter wanted their photographs to send a message to the world about the importance of protecting nature. Art can be used as a tool to help raise **awareness** (knowledge and understanding) of something that an artist cares about.

***Do you like to take pictures of people, places, or things that you care about?  
What do you take pictures of?***

In the early 2000s, Ketchum became very worried about a plan to mine for minerals in southwest Alaska. He was concerned mining this region would permanently damage the **ecosystem**



©Robert Glenn Ketchum, *Rat Creek, Wood-Tikchik State Park, 1999*,  
Fuji Crystal Archive print

(everything that exists in a place - including animals, plants, rocks, soil, and bodies of water). He took action by creating a weekly blog, a traveling photography exhibit, and working with others to take out ads in newspapers. He used his photographs of the region, like the one on the left, to show people the beauty of southwest Alaska and encourage them to “say no to Pebble Mine.”

***If you could take a picture that  
would send a message to the world,  
what message would you want to  
send?***

- ⇒ **Discuss:** Eliot Porter is considered an **innovator** of color photography. An **innovator** is someone who has new and different ideas about how something can be done. Have you ever come up with a new and different way of doing something? Can you think of a famous innovator?
- ⇒ **Examine:** Look around the exhibit and find the photograph **Red Maple and Birches** by Eliot Porter (right). How many colors do you see in this photograph? Some of the colors are the same, but have different **shades** (a lighter or darker version of a color). Ketchum and Porter wanted their colorful photographs to get attention and make people excited about the natural world. How do the colors in this photograph make you feel?
- ⇒ **Find:** Colors like yellow, orange, and red are called **warm** colors, while colors like blue, purple, and green are called **cool** colors. Can you find examples of both warm and cool colors in the exhibit?



Eliot Porter, *Red Maple and Birches, Road to Passaconaway, New Hampshire, October 11, 1953*, 1953, Dye imbibition print, © 1990 Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, TX

## Try This!

Did you know that we have not always been able to take color photographs? When photography was first invented photos were only black, white, and gray. Photographers had to paint directly on top of photographs to add color to them! *Can you add color to this black and white image, just like early photographers? Try using markers, colored pencils, or watercolors!*



Lynn Henderson, *Lazy Grazing*, 2008, Digital photography