

**PRESS RELEASE
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Remains of a Rainbow: Rare Plants and Animals of Hawaii

**This project brought to you by National Geographic Books,
in association with Environmental Defense.**

Hawai'i has the unfortunate distinction of being the endangered species capital of the world. It comprises less than one percent of the total U.S. land area, yet almost one third of the species on the U.S. endangered species list are Hawaiian. While this loss of diversity is extreme, *it represents an accelerated view of declining biodiversity worldwide.*

In **REMAINS OF A RAINBOW: Rare Plants and Animals of Hawai'i** (National Geographic Society with Environmental Defense; November 2001) produced by award-winning photographers and authors David Liittschwager and Susan Middleton, with a foreword by Pulitzer Prize—winning writer W.S. Merwin and an afterword by Environmental Defense Senior Ecologist David S. Wilcove, Middleton and Liittschwager present breathtaking photographic portraits of more than 130 species of Hawai'i's endemic flora and fauna.

The boldest and most beautiful book of their career, **REMAINS OF A RAINBOW** surpasses even their 1994 book, *WITNESS: Endangered Species of North America*, which graced the covers of magazines from *Life* to *Sierra*, was the subject of a best-selling Emmy Award—winning National Geographic television special and traveled to museums nationwide as a heralded photo exhibition. While *The Los Angeles Times* praised its “virtuoso beauty,” *Whole Earth Review* proclaimed it “a masterpiece: a stunning, stark testimony to being.”

Liittschwager and Middleton worked with photographer Richard Avedon and the two have been photographing endangered wildlife since 1986. Considered to be among the foremost chroniclers of the natural world, Liittschwager and Middleton “are not just photographing their subjects, they are in compassionate attendance... their artistic vision is compelled by a sense of social responsibility” (Barry Lopez, *Orion* magazine). This dedication has gained them unparalleled access to Hawai'i's rarest species, some never before photographed.

In an interview regarding **REMAINS OF A RAINBOW**, Liittschwager and Middleton can discuss:

- Their 4-year photographic adventure, which took them from razorback ridges to isolated valleys in Hawaii's most remote regions.
- New discoveries (plants & animals not yet known to science) and rediscoveries (species thought to be extinct).
- The experience of photographing the last known individual of a species.
- Their photographic exhibition which will travel to museums across the country.
- How their special photographic techniques communicate the beauty and wonder of native plants and animals
- How we can stop the tide of destruction, and
- Why Hawai'i is important to the rest of the world.

To schedule an interview with David Liittschwager or Susan Middleton, please contact Umbrage Editions

Extraordinary Praise for WITNESS, David Liittschwager and Susan Middleton's first book:

“The virtuoso beauty of WITNESS stands out.... an eloquent record of beautiful creatures that may soon exist only in photographs.”

—*Los Angeles Times*

“It’s the event of the century — at least to the animals and plants involved. An extraordinary look at 100 species on the edge of extinction.”

—*San Francisco Examiner*

“A big, beautiful book with a conscience.”

—*American Photo*

“The lasting value of Susan’s and David’s work lies partly with the way they conduct themselves.... They are not just photographing their subjects, they are in compassionate attendance... their artistic vision is compelled by a sense of social responsibility.... Many viewers might say better than I how lovely these pictures are, how affectionate, how exceptional. My privilege has been to watch these people work, to witness the dignified and professional act that produces such pictures, and to report that in Susan Middleton and David Liittschwager, as representatives of the human family concerned over the fate of wild creatures, we could not have chosen better.”

—Barry Lopez, *Orion*

“This book is a masterpiece: a stunning, stark testimony to being...”

—*Whole Earth Review*

“Esthetically, the most original aspect of WITNESS is that each subject is photographed against a backdrop of black velvet or white seamless. This stands in stark contrast to traditional nature photography which portrays each species in its natural environment. The technique works brilliantly in WITNESS for two reasons. First, it offers a powerful metaphor of habitat loss—the main reason that species become endangered.... Second, the isolation technique is designed to create “celebrity portraits” of the vanishing species.... **The project’s work is bold. It has integrity. It breaks new ground photographically. It packs an emotional wallop. And it has been eminently successful...**”

—*Photo District News*

“This oversized edition is perfectly suited to its message: look closely and know them well, for soon they may be gone. The pictures...and the well-documented text tell the profound and undeniable story of what we are losing because of the way we choose to live... **The 100 endangered species in WITNESS force us to stop, look, and think again.**”

—*NAPRA Trade Journal*

“A **spellbindingly gaze-worthy** addition to both the natural history and the fine photography shelves.”

—*Booklist*

“The authors have lavished as much care and attention on the pictures of the lowliest plants as on the majestic eagle, thus **sending the message that each endangered species is unique, exquisite, and precious in the web of life.**”

—*Library Journal* (Starred Review)

—*more*—

More Extraordinary Praise for WITNESS
By David Liittschwager and Susan Middleton

“A moving tribute to some staggering evolution, some remarkable living.... “WITNESS is a book to which most people will want to return, to study form and color, to indulge the eye. More importantly, **viewers will return to look for a hint about their place in the web of fragile life.**”

—*The Boston Sunday Globe*

“One look at the magnificent book, WITNESS, will enlist readers in supporting efforts to quell the extinction of native American flora and fauna....This is truly **an outstanding effort that captures the spectacular beauty and uniqueness of each subject.... Don’t miss it!**”

—*Chattanooga Free Press*

“**The photos are exceptional...amazingly powerful... This is a book to make you think, hard.** The thoughts are not pleasant ones, but they are necessary if we are to begin to change our ways and leave a better world for future generations.”

—*Shutterbug*

“**The most beautiful nature book of the year.**”

—*Santa Fe New Mexican*

“A **striking** new book of photographs.”

—*Self*

“**Exquisite** pictures....These are mug shots of an eternity slipping away.”

—*Elle*

“**Stunning** photographs...sort of like Richard Avedon meets Marlin Perkins.”

—*Harper’s Bazaar*

“Their portraits bring out the beauty inherent in even the most bizarre and, yes, ugly (if, like me, beetles aren’t particularly to your liking) creatures.... **[WITNESS] makes us see why we should work to save what we still have.**”

—*Orange County Register*

“**[A] powerful** collaboration...What WITNESS illustrates, more than anything , is the rich diversity of life on this planet and the affecting majesty of even some of its smallest creatures.”

—*Seattle Post-Intelligencer*

“**WITNESS bears powerful testimony to the beauty, diversity, and sacredness of life on this planet... A remarkable collection** of 100 species of flora and fauna that will disappear forever if action to protect them and preserve their habitats isn’t taken quickly.”

—*Sky*