

Take Your Best Shot

THORSTEN MILSE: TRUE TO HIS VISION

The German nature photographer uses the Canon EOS to capture what he sees.



Landscape with elephant (left) and long-tailed macaque hand and foot in close-up (above).

Thorsten Milse started snapping pictures as a teen, shooting everything from the squirrels in the family garden to the exotic landscapes of Mexico he saw on holiday. Trained as a graphic designer, he made the leap to full-time freelance photographer after attending a Canon workshop in 1999. His big break came in 2003, when he travelled to the Canadian Arctic to photograph young polar bears and their mothers for his first book, *Little Polar Bears*. Around that same time, Milse decided to give digital a try, shooting the brilliant red-rock formations of Bryce Canyon in Utah with both a film camera and the Canon EOS 10D. The upshot: The digital EOS was truer to his vision, capturing what he'd seen through his viewfinder.

Since then, this Canon Ambassador (see his work at cpn.canon-europe.com) has used the EOS system to shoot landscapes and wildlife all over the world, and in the most extreme conditions—from the subzero climes of the Arctic and Antarctic to the searing heat and dust of an African sahara. He captured the dramatic image of a sand-duned desert with elephant, above, on Namibia's Skeleton Coast. "I wanted to combine the elephant with the landscape—to show the difference between it and these huge dunes," he says. "Everyone knows how tall an elephant is, but compared to the dunes, it seems small." That contrast evokes a powerful feeling about the place and one of its creatures. But it's the details—the fine structure of the sand dunes,

the light and the color, all so difficult to capture—that really make the image.

The new Canon EOS-1D Mark IV is a real breakthrough for photographers, says Milse, who just returned from Indonesia, where he used it to shoot Balinese long-tailed macaques (see small image). One reason: Its speed. "I'm able to take 10 shots a second, and the burst rate is 30 frames in the raw mode," he says, referring to the setting that allows photographers to shoot at high speed at the highest image quality. The new autofocus system and tracking are other big advantages, especially for swiftly travelling subjects like macaques.

The ability to shoot in available light is also invaluable: the Canon EOS-1D Mark IV lets users capture high-quality images even in very dim conditions. "Taking pictures of quick-moving monkeys in a dark forest wasn't a problem," says Milse, who shot at ISO settings of up to 12,800 with great results. "The Canon EOS-1D Mark IV lets me take high-quality photos that would've been impossible to capture before.

CAPTURE YOUR VISION: CANON'S EOS-1D MARK IV

For photographers—pros and passionate amateurs alike—the big question is: How can I capture exactly what I see and convey what I feel? Some digital cameras make the task harder: problems like shutter lag and poor light sensitivity mean great shots get missed or appear grainy. Canon's new **EOS-1D Mark IV**, with its 10 frames per second shooting speed and sharp 16.1 megapixel resolution, along with a broad ISO spectrum that makes

very low light no problem (up to 12,800, expandable up to 102,400) and a 45-point autofocus range, helps photographers create images that aren't merely what they hoped for—they're beyond expectations. And for photographers who shoot video, there's a bonus: Canon EOS-1D Mark IV also captures crisp full HD movies.

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