

Photos by Jo-Anne McArthur

Keeping non-human animals in captivity is a common practice, fraught with moral complications and contradictions. In one context, the bent metal of a chain-link fence is a mentally suffocating and physically demeaning enclosure, robbing animals of their natural rhythms and behaviours; in another context, the fence acts as the protective barrier of a sanctuary, guarding inhabitants from exposure to further brutality at the hands of human beings. The contexts of captivity are numerous, as are the ways we can rationalize even the most blatant cruelty.

Travelling the world as a photographer, Jo-Anne McArthur has seen and documented the extremes and in-betweens of human / non-human animal relationships. In the series of photographs presented throughout this issue of *UnderCurrents* and on both covers, she explores the issue of captivity in all of its simplicity and complexity: from roadside "zoos" that dot the Canadian landscape, to discreet and dense confinement areas where animals are bred for food, to sanctuaries where comfort and joy abound and eden seems almost within reach.



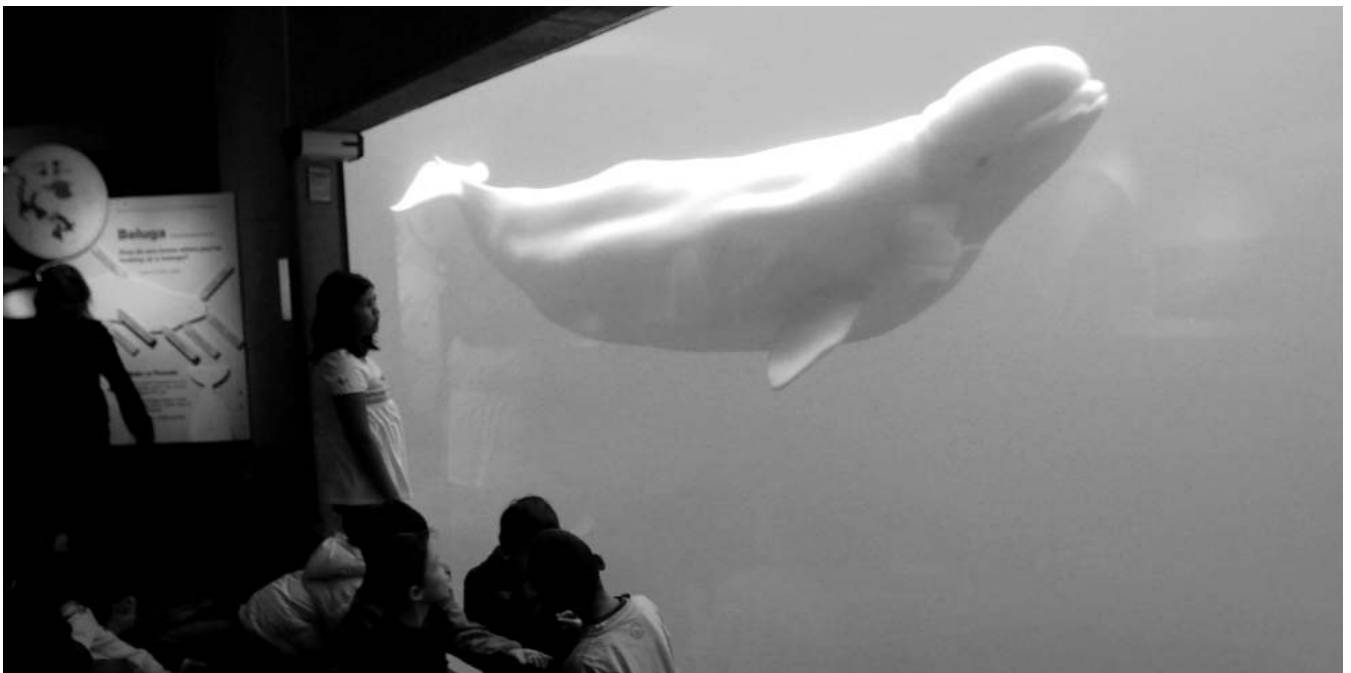
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