

# UMIH 22-23 Graduate Fellowship Lecture

*Uncomfortable Elegance:  
Aesthetics and Representation  
of Oil Extraction, Production,  
Consumption, and Disposal in  
Edward Burtynsky's Oil Series  
Photographs*

by Amal Majumder (ETFM)

**THURSDAY,  
APRIL 13TH 2023  
AT 2:30 PM CT**

**409 TIER  
BUILDING**

**EMAIL :  
[umih@umanitoba.ca](mailto:umih@umanitoba.ca)  
with questions and  
accessibility needs  
which we will do our  
best to meet**



In this talk, I will explore and examine the “guilty pleasure” that Edward Burtynsky’s Oil Series photographs incite through the presentation of the sheer scale of the oil extraction and production practices and process as well as its ubiquitousness in our modern way of life underscored by consumerist ambition and appetite for comfort. To complement the reading of Burtynsky’s photographs, I will use the Jennifer Baichwal-directed documentary *Manufactured Landscape* with the hope of getting further insights into the relationality dynamics of modern life and oil.

Amal is an MA student in the Department of English, Theatre, Film and Media at the University of Manitoba. He is interested in exploring the intersections between environmental issues, media representation, and cultural production. Inspired by growing concerns over the environmental impact of fossil fuels, Amal’s MA thesis will focus on the politics and poetics of oil extraction and production practices, processes, and sites.