

off the fence.

Smithsonian Spotlight (Series 1)

6 x 30'

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

1. National Museum of African American History

Discover the inspirations, efforts, and challenges involved in establishing an American museum dedicated to presenting and preserving the African American experience. It's still a work in progress, but the first exhibit is already assembled: an extraordinary collection of photographs of this country's most celebrated and influential African Americans.

2. Antarctica with Michael Lang

Plunge into the frigid waters of the South Pole to discover unique species and the strange phenomena of gigantism and longevity exhibited by sea life in Antarctica. The earth's southernmost land mass has the dubious distinction of being the coldest, driest, windiest continent. It's also where you'll find a daring team of divers from the Smithsonian Institution.

3. STRI with Biff Birmingham

Travel south of the continental United States' border to where the Smithsonian Institution maintains a remarkable project in the rain forest along the Panama Canal. Scientists have set up a network of research stations to study subtle changes in animals and plants. See how these creatures adapt – and often surrender – to changes in the environment.

4. Barcode of Life

Follow the Consortium for the Barcode of Life, an international initiative dedicated to developing technology that will allow scientists to catalogue every living creature and plant on earth.

5. Space: The Last 50 Years

Join curators from the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum and a former shuttle astronaut as they discuss memorable moments from the last fifty years in Space. Relive the triumphs and tragedies, and witness the astonishing tales and technological advances that changed the world and how we see it.

6. Artists in Their Studio

Take a look inside the artist's studio, including the Long Island barn where Jackson Pollock created his famous 'poured' paintings and the 19th century Paris studio of John Singer Sargent. These workspaces often tell as much about the artists as their paintings.