

## NEWS RELEASE

*For Immediate Release*

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Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences

### **New Exhibition by Diane Burko to Open at NAS**

WASHINGTON – Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences announces “Endangered: From Glaciers to Reefs,” a multi-media exhibition by Diane Burko. This exhibition will debut work from Burko’s new coral reef series together with her glacier paintings. The exhibition opens Aug. 15 and will remain on view through Jan. 31, 2019, at the National Academy of Sciences.

Artist Diane Burko is devoted to communicating climate change issues through her work. For more than a decade, she has documented the dramatic disappearance of glaciers with large-scale series of paintings and photographs developed in close collaboration with glaciologists. She has made expeditions to the three largest ice fields in the world as part of her study of polar landscapes. In the past year, Burko turned her attention toward the impact of climate change on coral reef systems around the world, traveling to Hawaii, American Samoa, and Australia’s Great Barrier Reef to learn from marine biologists and to see first-hand how increasing ocean temperatures, sea-level rise, and ocean acidification are affecting coral reef systems. Coral reefs are critical marine ecosystems and also serve as buffers to our coastlines, protecting them from waves, storms, and floods. During her trips, she took photographs and video which, along with maritime maps and her own research and personal experience, became source material for her paintings.

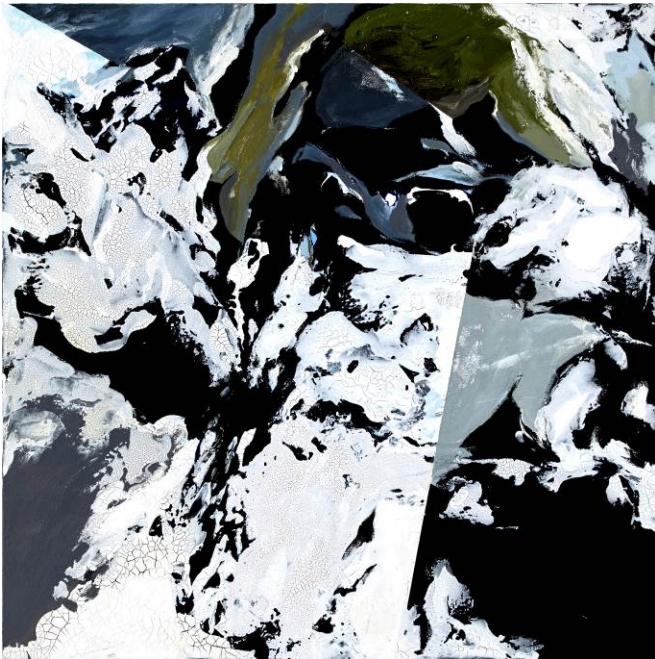
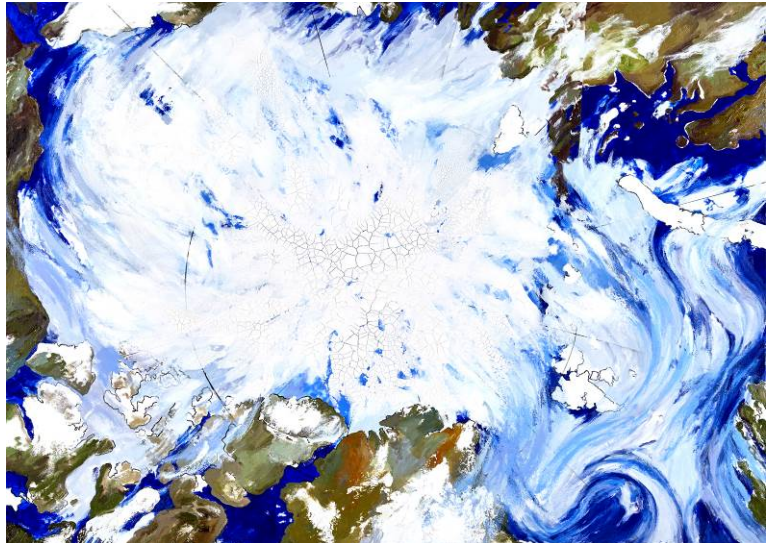
To create this rich new body of work about coral reefs, Burko has embarked on a painting technique where she pours acrylic paint onto a flat canvas, letting it spill, pool, and flow, as a way to allow the material to relate more to the content of the painting. She uses an air compressor to spread and thin the paint in areas, alluding to varying ocean depths. She incorporates details from ocean charts as a reference to the science that inspires the work. Along with her paintings, the exhibition also features eight lenticular prints and a video of her experiences.

Born in Brooklyn and based in Philadelphia, Diane Burko has exhibited her paintings and photography widely throughout the United States in a career spanning nearly 50 years. Since 2006, her practice has been at the intersection of art, science, and the environment, seeking to raise awareness about the urgent issues of climate change. About her climate-focused work, Burko states, “I don’t want to frighten people away. I want to celebrate these places and ecosystems, and then through the celebration and through reminding people about ecological signs and warnings, communicate that there’s an underlying issue: that we have to protect nature and we’re the ones who are directly involved in destroying it.”

“Endangered: From Glaciers to Reefs” will be on exhibit at the National Academy of Sciences building, 2101 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. The galleries are open weekdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. A photo ID is required and there is no charge. For more information, visit [www.cpnas.org](http://www.cpnas.org). Watch a short video about the show at [https://youtu.be/MmKs\\_jQI3FY](https://youtu.be/MmKs_jQI3FY).

**Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences** sponsors exhibitions, the D.C. Art Science Evening Rendezvous salon, theatrical readings, and other events that explore relationships among the arts and sciences. The National Academy of Sciences is a private, nonprofit institution that recognizes achievement in science by election to membership, and -- with the National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Medicine -- provides science, technology, and health policy advice to the federal government and other organizations. **(Continues on page 2)**

**Press images:**



**Clockwise from upper left:** *Faga'alu*, 2018, acrylic on canvas, 60 x 60 inches; *Arctic Melting*, 2016, oil and mixed media on canvas, 60 x 84 inches; *Beaufort*, 2016, oil and mixed media on canvas, 42 x 42 inches; *Molokai*, 2018, acrylic on canvas, 42 x 42 inches.

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