

NEWS RELEASE

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Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences

New Exhibition by Diane Tuft to Open at NAS

WASHINGTON – Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences (CPNAS) announces “The Arctic Melt: Images of a Disappearing Landscape,” an exhibition of 11 large-scale photographs by Diane Tuft that explores the effects of climate change on the Arctic. The exhibition opens Sept. 1, 2017, and will remain on view through Feb. 20, 2018, at the National Academy of Sciences.

Tuft traveled by plane, boat, and helicopter during the summers of 2015 and 2016 to document landscapes in Svalbard, Norway, the Arctic Ocean’s sea ice, and the icebergs and ice sheet of Greenland. Although humans are absent from her images, the destructive influence of human-caused climate change is depicted through jagged cracks in ice and flowing water. The series features both panoramic views of icebergs and close-ups of ice. Wide views show the power and vastness of the seas, while close-up images document the fragility of the snowbound landscape as it melts away. Tuft has said of her artistic journey: “The Arctic is melting faster than any other place in the world. I felt compelled to photograph its splendor before the effects of global warming cause this landscape to disappear.”

The Arctic has warmed more than twice as fast as the global average. Scientists believe this trend, known as Arctic amplification, is caused in part by the loss of sea ice. As this reflective surface melts, it leaves behind darker water that absorbs more heat. In 2012, the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* published a study in which scientists project an ice-free summer in the Arctic sometime between 2054 and 2058. The National Academy of Sciences and the Royal Society of London jointly produced the publication *Climate Change: Evidence and Causes* (2014) in which they state: “It is now more certain than ever, based on many lines of evidence, that humans are changing Earth’s climate. The atmosphere and oceans have warmed, accompanied by sea-level rise, a strong decline in Arctic sea ice, and other climate-related changes...increases in the extremes of climate that can adversely affect natural ecosystems and human activities and infrastructure are expected.”

Diane Tuft is a mixed-media artist who has focused primarily on environmental fine art photography since 1998. She earned a degree in mathematics at the University of Connecticut before continuing her studies in art at the Pratt Institute in New York. Her work is included in the collections of Whitney Museum of American Art, New York City; International Center of Photography, New York City; Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, N.Y.; as well as numerous private collections. Tuft lives and works in New York City.

“The Arctic Melt: Images of a Disappearing Landscape” 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. Tuft speaks at the D.C. Art Science Evening Rendezvous on Feb. 15. For more information, visit www.cpnas.org.

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. For more information, visit www.cpnas.org. 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.

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Press images:



Meltwater, Greenland Ice Sheet, 2016, color pigment print, 45 x 60 inches



Amidst the Icebergs, Disko Bay, Greenland, 9:20 PM, 2016, color pigment print, 45 x 60 inches



Permutations, Arctic Ocean, 11:04 PM, 89 degrees N, Ice Thickness 1 – 2 Meters, 2015, color pigment print, 45 x 60 inches



The Arctic Melt, Greenland Sea, Arctic Ocean, 4:48 PM, 79 degrees N, 2015, color pigment print 45 x 60 inches

For print-quality images, contact Alana Quinn, 202-334-2415, aquinn@nas.edu

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