

News release



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Artists respond to fragile and beautiful Arctic landscape in Museum's Oxfordshire Artweeks show

An Artweeks Arctic – 11 November 2016 – 29 January 2017

An exhibition of Arctic-inspired artwork opens at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History this Friday 11 November as part of the Oxfordshire Artweeks Christmas programme. Presenting work from nine artists based in the county, the exhibition captures a variety of responses to an increasingly threatened environment.



“There is no part of the world that is changing more rapidly than the Arctic,” says Professor Paul Smith, director of the Museum of Natural History. “Within a human lifetime there has been visible and rapid retreat of many glaciers and ice caps, even in the far north a few hundred kilometres from the North Pole. It is timely that we capture images and impressions of these landscapes now as they will not be the same for our children or grandchildren.”

The collaboration with Oxfordshire Artweeks forms part of the Museum's yearlong Visions of Nature programme (www.visionsofnature.net) which has celebrated art inspired by the natural environment, including photography, fine art and poetry. *An Artweeks Arctic* showcases over 90 works, from paintings to glasswork and textiles to ceramics. Admission to the exhibition is free during the Museum's opening hours.

Esther Lafferty, Festival Director of Oxfordshire Artweeks, said: “Oxfordshire Artweeks is a local organisation for artists and designer-makers across the county. It was a surprise, therefore, to discover a large number who were fascinated and inspired by the ecology and habitat of the Arctic and concerned by the changes that are occurring there.”

For some of the artists, including ceramist Mia Sarosi, the work is intended to highlight the fragility of the Arctic landscape. “I hope that my work invites reflection on the Arctic environment and the need to protect it from the invasive impact of mankind,” says Sarosi.



For further information and images:

Ellena Smith
Interpretation officer
Museum of Natural History
ellena.smith@oum.ox.ac.uk
01865 282 537

Notes to editors

About the Museum of Natural History

Founded in 1860 as the centre for scientific study at the University of Oxford, the Museum of Natural History now holds the University's internationally significant collections of entomological, geological and zoological specimens. Housed in a stunning Pre-Raphaelite-inspired example of neo-Gothic architecture, the Museum's growing collections underpin a broad programme of natural environment research, teaching and public engagement.

In 2015, the Museum was a **Finalist in the Art Fund Prize for Museum of the Year**. In 2016, it won the top accolade, Best of the Best, in the **Museums + Heritage Awards**.

www.oum.ox.ac.uk

www.morethanadodo.com

About Oxfordshire Artweeks

The Oxfordshire Artweeks festival presents a wide variety of media: painting, photography, textiles, sculpture, ceramics, furniture, glass, mosaics, jewellery, and more. *Artweeks* is run by a board of voluntary directors,

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made up of artists and other professionals who generously donate their time and expertise, and is managed by a part-time executive director, supported by a part-time office administrator.

www.artweeks.org