



PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 12, 2016

Contact: Laura Carpenter (907) 929-9227 lcarpenter@anchagemuseum.org

High-resolution images available at the museum's online media room,
www.anchagemuseum.org/media

Artistic and insider look at the North reveals complex and changing place

'View From Up Here' on view May 6 through Oct. 2 at the Anchorage Museum

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – Home to four million people, the Arctic has also long drawn explorers, artists and other investigators, and that fascination with the North continues today.

“View From Up Here: The Arctic at the Center of the World” is an international contemporary art exhibition at the Anchorage Museum that highlights contemporary investigations into the Arctic through the perspective of artists. The exhibition conveys a complexity of place and people through film, photographs, installations and sculptures that highlight Arctic landscape and culture. “View From Up Here” also offers glimpses into the future of the Arctic within the context of great environmental and cultural change.

The artworks in the exhibition offer insights into the North, presenting the North from a broader perspective. Participating artists range from Indigenous artists from Alaska offering an insider view of the North to international contemporary artists who have visited and studied the Arctic.

The exhibition will have components throughout the museum, from formal galleries to an informal “living room” that offers gathering space for investigation and conversation, as well as installations in common spaces and outdoors. It is accompanied by public programs, including performances, in the museum and out in the community. A corresponding publication supports examination of the North beyond black-and-white perspectives. A coordinating series of Curated Conversations will include cross-disciplinary conversations about issues that impact the North but have global implications.

After the exhibition closes at the Anchorage Museum this fall, installations from “View From Up Here” will travel to Canada and additional venues, with public programs occurring in New York, Iceland and Norway.

ANCHORAGE MUSEUM

The Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center is the largest museum in Alaska and one of the top 10 most visited attractions in the state. The museum's mission is to connect people, expand perspectives and encourage global dialogue about the North and its distinct environment. Learn more at www.anchagemuseum.org.

###



Contact: Laura Carpenter (907) 929-9227 lcarpenter@anchagemuseum.org

FOR MEDIA ONLY: A media preview of "View from Up Here" will be 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, May 5. Anchorage Museum Director and CEO Julie Decker as well as several of the participating artists will be available for interviews. Please RSVP to lcarpenter@anchagemuseum.org or 907-929-9227.

High resolution images available for media at:

<https://www.anchagemuseum.org/media/press-releases/artistic-and-insider-look-at-the-north-reveals-complex-and-changing-place/>





Contact: Laura Carpenter (907) 929-9227 lcarpenter@anchagemuseum.org

EXHIBIT AT A GLANCE

TITLE	“View From Up Here: The Arctic at the Center of the World”
DATES	May 6 through Oct. 2, 2016
BRIEF OVERVIEW	This international contemporary art exhibition organized by the Anchorage Museum highlights investigations into the Arctic through the perspective of artists. “View from Up Here” conveys a complexity of place and people through film, photographs, installations and sculptures that highlight Arctic landscape, culture, science, and visions of the future. The exhibition will have components throughout the museum, from formal galleries to an informal “living room” and installations and performances in common spaces and outdoors. A corresponding publication supports examination of the North beyond black-and-white perspectives.
ADMISSION	Included in Anchorage Museum general admission: \$15 adult \$12 Alaska resident adult \$10 student/senior/military \$7 child Free ages 2 and younger Purchase at anchagemuseum.org
ADDRESS	Anchorage Museum 625 C St Anchorage AK 99501 On the corner of Sixth Avenue and C Street
PUBLIC CONTACT	www.anchagemuseum.org (907) 929-9200

###



Contact: Laura Carpenter (907) 929-9227 lcarpenter@anchagemuseum.org

EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS

Insider view from up here

Filmmaker Anna Hoover created the film *Alaxsxaq*, a look at Alaska's Arctic at a time of change. Sitka artist Nicholas Galanin debuts a film that explores change and identity.

Sculpture re-imagines Artic formation

Architect Christoph Kapeller maps a yedoma for "View From Up Here." A yedoma is a type of Pleistocene-age permafrost. A thawing yedoma is a significant source of atmospheric methane. The installation allows visitors to explore one of these prehistoric ice formations.

Through the media of photography, sculpture and sound recordings, Kapeller traces the disappearance of ancient life as it thaws and rots on the face of the gigantic ice complex. He re-imagines and reveals the nature of this three-dimensional labyrinth and gives us a glimpse of what its intrinsic architecture might look like.

Seattle artist John Grade's sculptures explore sculptural forms that suggest floats. Glass fishing floats have been making their way to the Alaska Arctic coast from Asia on ocean currents for the past century. They get trapped in sea ice – sometimes for decades – and wash up on shore in sound condition. Grade created glass and wood sculptures inspired by these fishing floats for "View From Up Here." Some floats are currently in Arctic waters, tethered just off shore. The ones in the exhibition have stayed behind and remain in pristine condition.

Photographer traces the North's last living nomads

Dutch photographer and filmmaker Jeroen Toirkens has documented the raw reality of the last living nomads of the Northern Hemisphere since 1999. He has followed the lives of various nomadic tribes in Central Asia, Russia, Mongolia and the Arctic region where globalization, draught, poverty and climate change make it increasingly difficult for these people to maintain their traditional way of life.

Toirkens continued this work for the "View From Up Here" exhibition. In 2015, he traveled to one of the most isolated places in Alaska, Little Diomedes, bringing with him photographs of that area from the museum's collection to share with the people he met as a way to invite conversation and reflection on the community, sharing perspectives on hunting, family, and traditions.

His photographic essay from his experience on the island addresses the friction between tradition and modern life.

Arctic Food Forest

Mary Mattingly creates "living sculptures" that function as an ecosystem. Her *Arctic Food Forest* will include discussions around food and a sculptural garden on the Anchorage Museum's front lawn that includes both native and non-native plants that – until recently – might not have been able to thrive in Alaska, encouraging visitors to question how environmental change might change the flora and the food sources, of the North.



Contact: Laura Carpenter (907) 929-9227 lcarpenter@anchagemuseum.org

Polar bear dens in the fourth floor of the museum

Artists Bryndís Snæbjörnsdóttir and Mark Wilson have studied the architecture of polar bear dens, recreating these snowy homes with glass models. Their “View From Up Here” project on the museum’s fourth floor explores the complexity of land and change that these dens reveal.

Sound and film capture sensations of the North

Danish artist Annesofie Norn’s video installation documents one year in Greenland by interlinking continuous recordings of three local hunters, data of an artistic research station as well as local climate data.

Artist Derek Coté collaborated with New York composer Paul Haas and the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra to create *Legends Are Made Here*, a video-and-sound installation that highlights the North as a rich, textured and valuable environment that is being accessed at an increasing rate due to receding ice floes and resource scarcity.

Paris artists Magali Daniaux and Cedric Pigot explore language and the idea of archeology. They gathered wood from around the world and burned it in Kotzebue, creating a vinyl record from the ash that will play in the exhibition and leaving potential future archeological mystery in Kotzebue.

Living Room

The Anchorage Museum’s atrium will become a gathering space for engagement, offering interactive activities, mobile libraries, and furniture that resembles Northern landscapes. Visitors will be able to experience the North through technology, readings, films, visual imagery and food.

Soundwalks

Listen to first person stories about climate change and adaptation throughout Alaska. Soundwalks will transport listeners to places around the state through ambient sounds and voices of local people. Interviews focus on place, daily life, and any environmental changes that local residents have seen in their lifetime. One Soundwalk will begin at the Anchorage Museum, tour sites downtown and include information about Dena’ina Athabascan history in the region.

Soundwalks will be broadcast on KNBA 90.3FM and will be available in the Anchorage Museum’s “Living Room” exhibition. Soundwalks are produced by [Frontier of Change](#), part of Finding America, a national initiative by the Association of Independents in Radio that pairs independent producers with public radio and television stations across the United States.



Contact: Laura Carpenter (907) 929-9227 lcarpenter@anchagemuseum.org

ARTIST LIST

Derek Coté, Detroit

Coté has exhibited his work nationally and internationally. He received his MFA in sculpture and extended media at Virginia Commonwealth University and BFA at Western Washington University in sculpture and photography. He was an artist-in-residence at the Bemis Center for Contemporary Art and the Arctic Circle, an artist and scientist-led research expedition to the high Arctic, and has been a Polar Lab artist-in-residence with the Anchorage Museum since 2013, visiting both Alaska and Iceland as part of the residency. His "View From Up Here" project is a collaboration with conductor and composer Paul Haas of New York City. www.derekcote.com

Magali Daniaux and **Cédric Pigot**, Paris

Daniaux and Pigot met in 2001 and began working collaboratively that year. Their joint work bridges experimentation, installation and performance, using video, sound, music, poetry and photography. Their works explore climate change, economic, political and geo-strategic issues, urban development and food management. The work was shown in leading institutions in France and in Europe. In addition to their Arctic work in Scandinavia and Russia, the artists have been Polar Lab artists-in-residence with the Anchorage since 2014, making two trips to Alaska's Arctic. <http://daniauxpigot.com/>

Nicholas Galanin, Sitka, Alaska

Born in Sitka, Alaska, Galanin is a multi-disciplinary artist and musician. Having trained extensively in both "traditional" and "contemporary" approaches to art, he pursues them both in parallel paths. His bodies of work both preserve his culture and explore new perceptual territory. Galanin studied at the London Guildhall University, where he received a BFA in jewelry design and silversmithing and at Massey University in New Zealand, where he earned a master's degree in Indigenous visual arts. His work explores the politics of cultural representation. <http://galan.in/>

John Grade, Seattle

Grade creates large-scale sculptures that are exhibited internationally in museums, galleries, and outdoors in urban spaces and nature. His projects are designed to change over time and often involve collaboration with large groups of people to build and install. Grade is a recipient of the Metcalf Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a Tiffany Foundation Award, an Andy Warhol Foundation Award, two Pollock-Krasner Foundation grants, the Arlene Schnitzer Prize from the Portland Art Museum (OR), and an Arts Innovator Award from Artist Trust in Washington. For his "View From Up Here" installation, Grade made multiple trips to the Arctic in both Alaska and Iceland. <http://www.johngrade.com/>

Anna Hoover, Anchorage, Alaska

Hoover is an artist, activist in Indigenous issues, filmmaker, and founder of the non-profit First Light Alaska. She received master's degrees in Native American Art History and Indigenous documentary filmmaking and bachelor's degrees in art history and interdisciplinary fine arts from the University of Washington. <http://annahoover.net/>



Contact: Laura Carpenter (907) 929-9227 lcarpenter@anchagemuseum.org

Christoph Kapeller, Los Angeles

Kapeller was a founding partner of the Norwegian architecture firm *Snøhetta*. Since his relocation to Los Angeles, his firm CK Architecture has won numerous prizes and awards in international design competitions. Kapeller received his Dipl. Ing. of Architecture in Graz, Austria, and his master of architecture at the University of Southern California. In addition to his professional practice, Kapeller has lectured, written and published a number of critical articles, and has been a member of the design faculty at the University of Southern California (USC) School of Architecture. For his "View From Up Here" installation, Kapeller traveled to the Alaska Arctic on two excursions, including to document the most outstanding of Alaska's known yedomas – the Itkillik River permafrost cliff formed during the dry, cold days thousands of years ago when bison, lions and muskoxen roamed the grasslands of Alaska. Yedoma is a term Russians used to describe a mound that rises above the surrounding terrain. A Russian scientist introduced it to scientific literature in the 1930s to describe ice-rich permafrost in Siberia. <http://www.ck-architecture.com/profile.html>

Mary Mattingly, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Mattingly is an American visual artist living and working in New York. She has studied at Parsons School of Design and received her BFA from Pacific Northwest College of Art in Portland, Oregon. She is the recipient of a Yale University School of Art Fellowship. Mattingly explores the themes of home, travel, cartography, human relationships, and the environment. She has been recognized for creating photographs and sculptures depicting and representing futuristic and obscure landscapes, for making wearable sculpture, "wearable homes," and for her ecological installations. Her "View From Up Here" installation is the *Arctic Food Forest* on the lawn outside the museum. <http://www.marymattingly.com/>

Annesofie Norn, Denmark

As an artist, Norn investigates modes of mapping, measuring, and sensing the environment. Her work considers practices in the natural sciences and art that involve a situated engagement with the world through instrumentation and process. Norn has studied at the Berlin University of the Arts and received her bachelor's degree in scenography at the Academy of State Arts. Norn visited the Alaska Arctic as part of her Polar Lab residency with the Anchorage Museum. Her "View From Up Here" installation features Norn's work with Greenlandic people to create a series of videos that run 24 hours and show the daily life of Arctic people. The work is a collaboration with artists Ole Kristensen and Daniel Plewe. <http://annesofienorn.org/>

Marek Ranis, Charlotte, North Carolina, and Poland

Ranis has an MFA from the Academy of Fine Arts in Wroclaw, Poland, and is a sculptor, installation and video artist, photographer and a painter. Since 1994 Ranis has focused on environmental art and is the creator of more than 50 large-scale environmental installations in United States, Poland, Germany, France, Iceland, Holland, Taiwan and Australia. Ranis has received many prestigious grants and has participated in numerous residencies and art symposiums in Europe, United States, North America, Asia, Africa and Australia. Ranis has participated in more than 70 international solo and group exhibitions. He is currently a professor of sculpture at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He has multiple experiences within the Arctic and been a Polar Lab artist-in-residence with the Anchorage Museum since 2013. <http://www.marekranis.com/>



Contact: Laura Carpenter (907) 929-9227 lcarpenter@anchagemuseum.org

Bryndis Snæbjörnsdóttir and Mark Wilson, Iceland and England

Snæbjörnsdóttir and Wilson conduct their collaborative practice from bases in the north of England and Reykjavík, Iceland. With a strong research grounding, their socially engaged projects explore contemporary relationships between human and non-human animals in the contexts of history, culture and the environment. The work is installation based, using objects, text, photography and video. They have been Polar Lab artists-in-residence with the Anchorage Museum since 2015. <http://snaebjornsdottirwilson.com/>

Jeroen Toirkens, Holland

Toirkens is an independent photographer and filmmaker. He studied photographic design at the Royal Academy for the Visual Arts in The Hague. His work focuses on social documentary photography and slow-journalism and has published extensively in national and international newspapers and magazines. For his work in the "View From Up Here" exhibition, Toirkens traveled to Little and Big Diomedé islands of Alaska and Russia in 2015 to document the history and living culture of a culture separated by geography and politics. <http://jeroentoirkens.com>

Paul Walde, Canada

Walde is an intermedia artist, composer, and curator. His body of work suggests unexpected interconnections between landscape, identity, and technology and includes painting, photography, printmaking, video, installation, and audio. Walde received his BFA from the University of Western Ontario and his master's degree from New York University. In addition to his studio practice, Walde is an active lecturer, curator, teacher and writer. He currently resides in Victoria, British Columbia, where he is Associate Professor of Visual Arts and Department Chair at the University of Victoria. <http://www.paulwalde.com/>



Contact: Laura Carpenter (907) 929-9227 lcarpenter@anchagemuseum.org

RELATED PROGRAMS

View from Up Here Exhibition Opening Reception

6 to 9 p.m. Friday, May 6

Celebrate the opening of "View From Up Here: The Arctic at the Center of the World," an international contemporary art exhibition that highlights contemporary investigations into the Arctic through the perspective of artists. Select artists will provide a pecha kucha-style presentation about their work and the exhibition. The Anchorage Museum is redesigning the atrium to function as a community Living Room. Grab an Alaska beer and treat from the Muse kiosk and lounge on rock pillows or tech out in the digital corner with images and music about the North. Free general admission during First Friday is made possible by ConocoPhillips.

Polar Lab Artists-in-Residence

The Anchorage Museum invites international artists to engage the North through short and long-term projects and non-traditional residencies. 2016 residents include Lead Pencil Studio (May), Eames Demetrios (July), and Rebecca Fradkin (September). "View From Up Here" artists John Grade and Jeroen Toirkens will also return to create new work with the museum.

Urban Interventions: Street Art

The Urban Interventions series of Polar Lab seeks to motivate and empower youth through creative, healthy expression. In the July 8 program, local youth will paint murals inspired by Alaska Native art.

Polar Nights

The Anchorage Museum's Friday night programs enliven our nights through activities centering around art, culture, the environment, and the way Northern urbanites gather and meet. Activities include food, music, art, design, science, culture and innovation. The museum will host a Camp Stove Cook Off on May 20 and a Silent Disco on June 24.

Special Events

- **Local Food Festival:** In conjunction with the Arctic Food Forest on the museum lawn, the Anchorage Museum will celebrate Alaska food with local food trucks, live music, fish activities and more on July 22.
- **August ConocoPhillips First Friday:** Local chefs test their skills in an invasive species food cook-off, plus a jam session of live music and treats made from Alaska's berries on Aug. 5. Free general admission during First Friday is made possible by ConocoPhillips.
- **Cold Fusion:** Celebrate science with a variety of activities geared toward adults in September.
- **Spark Nites:** Activities for grown-ups about innovation in the North in the museum's invention space Spark!Lab Smithsonian.



Contact: Laura Carpenter (907) 929-9227 lcarpenter@anchagemuseum.org

Curated Conversations

Curated Conversations is a series of dialogues that seeks to offer provocative, cross-platform, cross-discipline conversations relevant to issues faced by northern people and places, exploring the relationship between landscape and culture. In August, a panel of artists and local food experts discuss the harvest from Arctic Food Forest installation.

Polar Lab: Lunch on the Lawn

This weekly program on the museum's lawn during the summer months brings live music, food trucks and activities to downtown Anchorage. This summer, Lunch on the Lawn will focus on various aspects of food in the north, including solar cooking, processing food, and game harvesting.

Design Weekend

This series of programs celebrates, educates, inspires and prompts discussion about the role design and visual identity play in Alaska and the North – to establish a sense of place, community and aspiration. Sept. 16-18



Contact: Laura Carpenter (907) 929-9227 lcarpenter@anchagemuseum.org

VIEW FROM UP HERE SPONSORS

Support for “View from Up Here” is provided by these generous sponsors:

Alaska Airlines

Alaska Public Media

Carr Foundation

JL Foundation

McCool Carlson Green

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

Rasmuson Foundation

Surdna Foundation

The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts