

LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

November 20th

*'Frozen In Time:
Photographs from the Arctic and Antarctica'*

By

Diane Tuft



Seascape, Greenland Ice Sheet, 2016, Pigment Print, 122 x 162.7cm, Edition 2/5

Dubai, UAE: Leila Heller Gallery is pleased to announce mixed media artist Diane Tuft's solo show titled *'Frozen In Time: Photographs from the Arctic and Antarctica'*, opening on 20th November 2023.

This exhibition is a collection of photographs documenting the expansive beauty of our planet and the dire situation that it continues to face if we do not provide a sustainable environment for its future. Diane Tuft uses her camera to capture these results and distill them into images that are surreal, awe inspiring, beautiful, but most importantly, thought-provoking. By travelling to the most remote places throughout the world including both the North and South Poles, she has been able to document the visual effects of climate change and global warming on our planet. While ultraviolet light is responsible for the vibrant, ethereal colors in these photographs, its effect on the planet and human health is of serious and growing scientific concern.

Diane Tuft's work focuses on the effects of ozone depletion and global warming as they are accelerating detrimental ultraviolet and infrared radiation absorbed by the Earth's atmosphere. While ultraviolet and infrared spectra cannot be seen by the human eye, it can be almost magically captured by digital image sensors and certain types of film. She explores these spectra in geographic regions where ultraviolet and infrared light are most prevalent, including the Great Salt Lake, Iceland, Greenland, Tunisia, New Zealand, Antarctica and the Arctic.

The Arctic is melting faster than any other place in the world. To capture *'The Arctic Melt: Images of a Disappearing Landscape'*, driven by her desire to create a comprehensive picture of the fragility of this region, Diane Tuft travelled by plane, boat and helicopter to the mountain glaciers of Svalbard, Norway, the Arctic Ocean's sea ice, the icebergs

and ice sheet of Greenland during the summers of 2015 and 2016. The resulting photographs reveal simultaneously the indefatigable beauty and poignant vulnerability of the planet's northernmost regions.

In 2012, a grant from the National Science Foundation brought Diane Tuft to Antarctica for six weeks. The resulting series of photographs, titled '*Gondwana: Images of an Ancient Land*', documents the dramatic natural landscape of this remote and ancient continent. Details of ice and rock are distilled into stunning forms for the viewer to consider anew. The photographs are both visual and scientific studies, conveying the subtle and violent atmospheric changes registered on the Antarctic landscape over millions of years. Tuft's photographs capture the high levels of ultraviolet light in Antarctica and expose the visual effects of years of climate change.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Since 1998, Diane Tuft has travelled the world taking photographs that capture the sublime and surreal effects of climate change on our environment. She has always been fascinated by how environmental factors shape the Earth's landscape, and capturing this through her camera has been a guiding principle in her work. Born and raised in the United States, Diane Tuft exhibits and lectures at institutions across the globe.

Her work is included in esteemed collections such as the Whitney Museum of American Art; Nevada Museum of Art; International Center of Photography; and Parrish Art Museum, as well as many private collections. Tuft's previous publications include *UNSEEN: Beyond the Visible Spectrum* (2009); *Gondwana: Images of an Ancient Land* (2014) and *The Arctic Melt: Images of a Disappearing Landscape* (2017). Tuft is also an award-winning director and producer of multiple short films, including *Coastal Requiem* (2019). She lives and works in New York City.

ABOUT THE GALLERY

Since its establishment over four decades ago in New York, Leila Heller Gallery has gained worldwide recognition as a pioneer in promoting a creative dialogue and exchange between Western artists and Middle Eastern, Central and Southeast Asian artists. It has garnered a reputation for identifying and cultivating the careers of artists leaving a lasting impact on contemporary art and culture. Currently representing a diverse roster of Western, Central Asian, Southeast Asian and Middle Eastern artists, the gallery is also active in the American, European, and Middle Eastern secondary art markets. In November 2015, Leila Heller Gallery opened its first international location in Dubai's Alserkal Avenue. At 16,000 square feet, the state of the art gallery features three exhibition spaces, making it the largest gallery in the UAE. Showcasing leading regional and international artists, many of whom will be presenting their work in the Middle East.

In addition to presenting a dynamic exhibition schedule, Leila Heller Gallery actively organizes shows with world-renowned curators, hosts educational panels and film screenings, and produces catalogues and books with scholarly essays. Each year the gallery participates in major international art fairs and stages off-site projects as a platform for exploring new conversations within a wider context of galleries, artists and institutions. Gallery artists have consistently participated in international museum exhibitions and biennials, and are included in leading institutional collections worldwide.