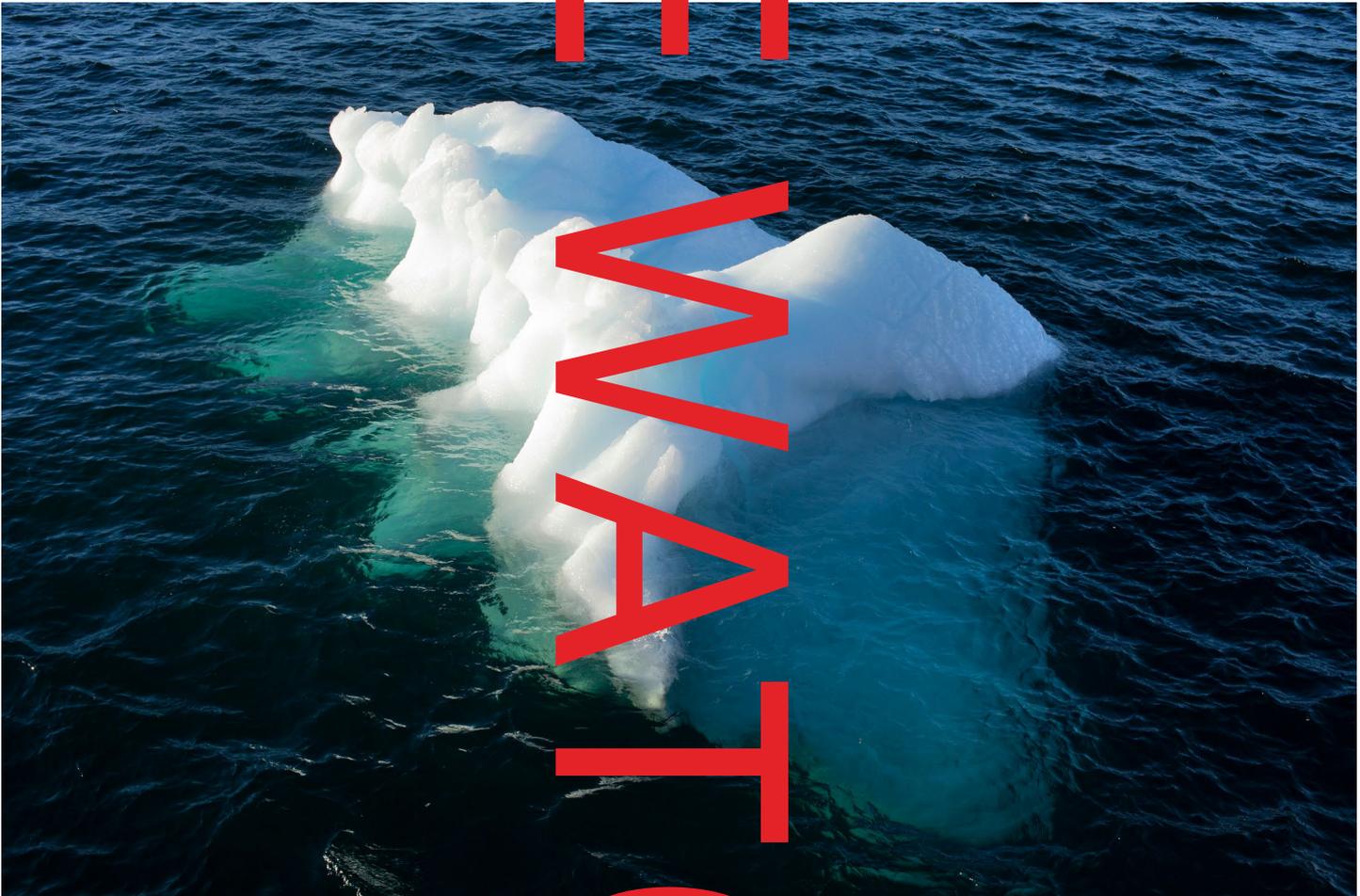


ICE MOUNTAIN



#IceWatchLondon

icewatchlondon.com

Press Release: 11 December 2018

OLAFUR ELIASSON PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION ICE WATCH BRINGS THE REALITY OF CLIMATE CHANGE TO LONDON

Ice Watch, a major public art installation created by internationally acclaimed artist Olafur Eliasson and award-winning geologist Minik Rosing highlighting the impact of climate change, was launched today. Supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, the launch was attended by Michael R. Bloomberg, UN Special Envoy for Climate Action and founder of Bloomberg LP and Bloomberg Philanthropies and Justine Simons, Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries.

The installation is in two parts: 24 blocks are arranged in a circular formation on Bankside outside Tate Modern, where a major exhibition of Eliasson's work will open in July 2019, and six blocks are on display in the heart of the City of London outside Bloomberg's European headquarters.

The blocks of ice were sourced from the waters of the Nuup Kangerlua fjord in Greenland, where they were melting into the ocean after having been lost from the ice sheet. As the ice gradually thaws, members of the public will have an opportunity to encounter the tangible effects of climate change by seeing and feeling the ice melt away. Depending on weather conditions, Ice Watch is expected to be on view in London until 21 December 2018. Any remaining ice will then be taken to local community and cultural institutions as part of an extended educational programme. Studio Olafur Eliasson has partnered with Julie's Bicycle for the second time to understand and take action to minimise the environmental impacts of Ice Watch.

Ice Watch has been launched to coincide with a meeting of world leaders at the COP24 climate change conference in Katowice, Poland, which follows the landmark report published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on 8 October 2018, warning that we have only 12 years to limit the worst effects of climate change.

Olafur Eliasson said: 'It is clear that we have only a short period of time to limit the extreme effects of climate change. By enabling people to experience and actually touch the blocks of ice in this project, I hope we will connect people to their surroundings in a deeper way and inspire radical change. We must recognise that together we have the power to take individual actions and to push for systemic change. Let's transform climate knowledge into climate action.'

Michael R. Bloomberg said: 'Ice Watch vividly captures the urgency of tackling climate change. We hope Olafur Eliasson's work of art will inspire bolder and more ambitious actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by governments, businesses, and communities.'

Justine Simons said: 'I am delighted this important work is coming to London, building on our rich heritage of public art and demonstrating our ongoing commitment to making London a greener, more sustainable city. London has always been unafraid to blaze a trail and the Mayor has set us the ambitious target of becoming a zero-carbon city. This sculpture will capture the imagination and help Londoners of all ages to understand first-hand the environmental challenges we all face.'

Minik Rosing said: 'Since 2015, the melting of ice in Greenland has raised global sea level by 2.5 mm. Since the discovery of the greenhouse effect in 1896, global temperatures have increased more than one degree Celsius. Earth is changing at an ever-increasing speed. The foundation of human civilisation withers away while Greenland melts. Everyone can observe it, most can understand it, and nobody can avoid it. Science and technology have made it possible for us to destabilise Earth's climate, but now that we understand the mechanisms behind these changes, we have the power to prevent them from growing.'

Ice Watch London is the third iteration of the Ice Watch artwork, with each instalment timed to coincide with a global climate change event. The first instalment opened in 2014 outside Copenhagen's City Hall to mark the publication of the UN Fifth Assessment Report on Climate Change by the IPCC. In 2015, Ice Watch Paris at the Place du Panthéon accompanied the 2015 COP 21 talks that led to the Paris Climate Agreement.

Ice Watch London will be Eliasson's first major public art installation in the capital and builds on his history of promoting climate change awareness and sustainable energy. His Little Sun project, also supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, provides portable, solar-powered lamps to local entrepreneurs, families and refugees in off-grid communities. The lamps are especially useful in households where electricity is scarce or unavailable, and priced affordably for families currently using costly and toxic kerosene for their lighting.

Other critically acclaimed works include Eliasson's 2003 Tate Modern installation The weather project, seen by more than 2 million people.

For more information and images visit: icewatchlondon.com and follow on social media using #IceWatchLondon

Twitter: @olafureliasson
@BloombergDotOrg
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Media Assets

Images and video footage can be downloaded at icewatchlondon.com.

Social Media

Twitter: @olafureliasson
@BloombergDotOrg
@MikeBloomberg
@Tate

Instagram: @studiolafureliasson
@BloombergDotOrg
@MikeBloomberg

Hashtags: #IceWatchLondon
#ClimateAction

Notes to Editors

Olafur Eliasson

Olafur Eliasson's art is driven by his interests in perception, movement, embodied experience, and feelings of self. Art, for him, is a crucial means for turning thinking into doing in the world. Well-known for his 2003 installation The weather project, at Tate Modern London, which was seen by over two million visitors, Eliasson works in a range of media that spans sculpture, painting, photography, film, and installation. Not limited to the confines of the museum and gallery, his practice engages the broader public sphere through architectural projects, interventions in civic space, arts education, policy-making, and issues of sustainability and climate change. In 2012, Eliasson and engineer Frederik Ottesen founded the social business Little Sun, which encourages sustainable development through sales of Little Sun solar-powered lamps and chargers (littlesun.com). Eliasson and architect Sebastian Behmann founded Studio Other Spaces, an international office for art and architecture, in Berlin in 2014 (studiootherspaces.net).

Eliasson's work Your double-lighthouse projection (2002) will be on display at Tate Modern from 17 December 2018 to 3 February 2019, leading up to a major survey exhibition opening at the museum on 11 July 2019. olafureliasson.net

Minik Thorleif Rosing

Professor of geology at the Natural History Museum of Denmark at Copenhagen University, he has participated in the geological exploration of Greenland and is world famous for having backdated the origin of life on Earth by several hundred million years.

Bloomberg Philanthropies

Bloomberg Philanthropies works in over 480 cities in more than 120 countries around the world to ensure better, longer lives for the greatest number of people. The organization focuses on five key areas for creating lasting change: Arts, Education, Environment, Government Innovation, and Public Health. Bloomberg Philanthropies encompasses all of Michael R. Bloomberg's charitable activities, including his foundation, corporate and personal giving. In 2017, Bloomberg Philanthropies distributed \$702 million. For more information, please visit bloomberg.org or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and Twitter.

Ice Watch coincides with a series of Bloomberg Philanthropies events and interventions calling for climate change action. These include 'Climate Exchange' – a sustainability conference co-hosted by Michael R. Bloomberg and Vanity Fair Editor-in-Chief Radhika Jones in London on the 12 December and a screening hosted at BAFTA, of Paris to Pittsburgh, a film about climate change premiering on National Geographic.

Julie's Bicycle

Julie's Bicycle is a London based NGO that supports the creative community to act on climate change and environmental sustainability. We work on a systems approach across the cultural sector with hundreds of creative practitioners, reducing environmental impacts and developing new thinking in line with the climate challenge. Over a decade Julie's Bicycle has built the largest global dataset and resource library to support ambitious cultural leadership in line with the Paris Agreement goal to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Julie's Bicycle
SUSTAINING CREATIVITY