

Hallie Ford *Museum of* Art

WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY

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Exhibition website: <https://willamette.edu/arts/hfma/exhibitions/library/2021-22/april-waters.html>

Water-Ice-Sky: Artist April Waters' Journey to Antarctica



April Waters at Amsler Island, 2018. Photo by Carolyn Lipke.

SALEM, Ore.— The Hallie Ford Museum of Art is pleased to present the debut of "April Waters: Water-Ice-Sky, Antarctica" exhibition, opening May 7 and continuing through August 13 in the museum's Study Gallery and Print Study Center. The exhibition explores the beauty and the vulnerability of Antarctica's fragile and susceptible ecosystem in the face of climate change.

In 2018, Salem, Oregon, artist April Waters — known for her works that focus on water and contemporary women leaders — turned her attention to Antarctica. As a grantee of the National Science Foundation Antarctic Artists and Writers Program, Waters traveled to Palmer Station to observe, study, photograph, and sketch the ocean, icebergs, and Marr Glacier.

After witnessing firsthand the beauty and harsh realities of a landscape facing monumental change, coupled with profound implications for the entire globe, Waters returned to her studio to transform her sketches, photographs and experiences into paintings of the earth’s southernmost continent.



April Waters, *Pi Island, Antarctica (also known as Dietrich Island)*, 2020, oil on canvas, 20 x 48 in., courtesy of the artist.

“As I understand something in more depth, I can express it better in paint.”
— April Waters

Among Waters paintings, “Pi Island, Antarctica (also known as Dietrich Island)” captures this rapidly evolving landscape, where the average winter temperature has increased by 10 degrees Fahrenheit over the past 60 years. The island (to the center and right on the horizon) is referred to as “Pi Island” because it was formed on Pi Day, March 14, 2014, when the last bit of glacier fell away to make the outcropping an actual island. Here islands are emerging. At the same time others around the world face the reality of rising water levels, and are disappearing.

“As Antarctica is undergoing dramatic changes in response to climate change,” marine biologist Dr. Kim Bernard of Oregon State University says, “I hope that those who experience the paintings that April Waters has created from her Antarctic expedition feel awed and inspired to protect this place.”

The exhibition is accompanied by ephemera that describes Waters’ journey, the science being done at Palmer Station, and includes a full-color brochure with an essay by art writer Bob Hicks.

Later this summer Waters will embark on the next part of her journey to further explore the story of melting ice and climate change by traveling to the opposite end of the globe to be an artist in residence at the Ilulissat Art Museum, Greenland to Ilulissat Art Museum in west Greenland. There she will travel by boat in Disko Bay and fly over the Jakobshavn and Equi Glaciers, to witness Greenland's stunning and quickly melting ice.

Waters has a Bachelor of Fine Art from University of Colorado, in Boulder, and worked for many years as a registered nurse. Her paintings can be found in the collections of the Hallie Ford Museum of Art, the State of Oregon, Oregon State University, Mount Angel Library, as well as many places of healing. Her painting "Wizard Island, Crater Lake," was exhibited at the American Embassy in Kyrgyzstan through the United States Arts in Embassies Program. Her work has been featured in numerous exhibitions over the past thirty years, including a one person show in the office of Oregon's Governor.

Financial support for this exhibition and brochure have been provided by an anonymous gift; by funds from the HFMA Exhibition Fund and Maribeth Collins Art Exhibition Fund; by a Career Opportunity grant from the Oregon Arts Commission; by advertising support from The Oregonian/Oregon Live; and by general operating support grants from the City of Salem's Transient Occupancy Tax funds and the Oregon Arts Commission.

About the Hallie Ford Museum of Art at Willamette University

As one of the finest academic art museums in the Northwest, the museum features works by Pacific Northwest and Native American artists, and includes a diverse collection of traditional European, American and Asian art, as well as artifacts that date from antiquity. Frequently changing exhibitions include lectures, special events, tours, artist demonstrations, educational opportunities for children and adults, as well as important publications.

The museum is located at 700 State St. in Salem. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. The galleries are closed on Sunday and Monday. Timed-entry tickets are highly recommended and can be purchased or reserved online at www.willamette.edu/go/hfma. People are encouraged to visit the website at willamette.edu/go/hfma for current COVID entry requirements and updates. General admission is \$6, \$4 for seniors and \$3 for students 18 and older. Students 17 and under and children are admitted free. Admission is free for everyone on Tuesdays.

For more information call [503-370-6855](tel:503-370-6855) or visit willamette.edu/arts/hfma.

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Video | *April Waters, Artist* (5:38 minutes)

<https://bit.ly/378o1Bq>

Artist April Waters talks about how water has inspired her art and how in 2018 she turned her attention to Antarctica. As a grantee of the National Science Foundation Antarctic Artists and Writers Program, Waters traveled to Palmer Station to observe, study, photograph, and sketch the ocean, icebergs, and Marr Glacier.

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For high-resolution images contact Andrea Foust at 503-370-6867 or at afoust@willamette.edu



April Waters, *Ice-Time, Iceberg by Litchfield Island, Antarctica*,
2020, oil on canvas, 72 x 108 in., courtesy of the artist.



April Waters, *Fresh Water Dance (Sun-cupped Bergy near Sheathbill Cove, Antarctica)*, 2020, oil on canvas, 42 x 42 in., courtesy of the artist.



April Waters in her Studio, 2022. Photo by Nathan Good.



April Waters in her Studio, 2022. Photo by Kelly James.



April Waters at work on "*Face of Marr*," 2022. Photo by Nathan Good.



April Waters. Photo by Kelly James.

INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY

Interviews with April Waters can be arranged by calling [503-370-6867](tel:503-370-6867).