



School: School of Art

Researcher: Mariele Neudecker

Project Title: The Arctic and Antarctica

UOA: 32

300-Word Statement

An enduring area of research for Neudecker, the Arctic regions are still seen as potent symbols of the Romantic Sublime, exemplifications of purity and remote beauty, yet a gauge of human impact on global weather patterns. With pertinent art historical and political contexts shaping her research Neudecker focuses more on the Arctic, rather than the more scientifically protected Antarctica to ask:

1. How do we define wilderness in extreme places like the Arctic and Antarctica, and given human activity can it still exist?
2. How might our need for notions of wilderness, informed by the legacy of Romanticism, be reconciled with current socio political realities in arctic regions ?
3. Who is responsible and by what limited means can artists and scientists make meaningful visual representations of remote regions ?

Neudecker's 2015 pivotal Glacier research trip to Greenland with *Project Pressure* extended her exploration of our limited capacity to represent places on the edge of the known: the arctic ice above and below ground bringing notions of absence and visibility as well as the environmental, geopolitical and economic context to different points of focus. The acknowledged but obscured interconnection of native Inuit culture and global military and trade presence is now ominously relevant to the Arctic generating a new understanding of the Contemporary Sublime.

This research is brought together in key Arctic works including *After Life* (2016), a large multi disciplinary installation; *On the Other Side* (2016), a stereoscopic viewer and new tank works, *Some Things Happen All at Once* (2014), and *Nothing Will Stay the Same* (2019).

These works contribute to the discourse on shifting perceptions of the Arctic, with Neudecker delivering lectures at climate conferences including *POLAR 2018*, Davos, and *UK Arctic Science Conference*, Loughborough in 2019. Neudecker is an honorary chair at Model Arctic Council, Norwich in 2020.