

Learning from Ice

Susan Schuppli

Installation at *Toronto Biennial of Art 2019*



Installation view Toronto Biennial of Art 2019

Learning from Ice investigates polar environments as a vast information network composed of material as well as cultural ‘sensors’ that are registering and transmitting the signals of pollution and climate change. The film trilogy coalesces disparate – and oftentimes imperceptible – data sources across a wide range of spatial scales that, when taken together, create a more comprehensive picture of our current ecological condition. It is organised around the concept of “learning from ice” and highlights the many different practices that have produced knowledge of environmental change in the North, from the study of past climates using ice cores, the lived experiences and observations of indigenous people, to techniques of material investigation. Part I: Ice Cores documents activities in the Canadian Ice Core Archive and the OSU Ice Core and Quaternary Geochemistry Lab in the US as well as glacial retreat at the Athabasca Glacier in the Columbia Icefields and ice core drilling at Mount Oxford, Nunavut.

Generously Supported by the Toronto Biennial of Art, Canada Council for the Arts, and the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in Fine Arts. Office for Contemporary Art Norway (OCA) will collaborate with the Toronto Biennial of Art to support the research and work of Susan Schuppli and her project ‘Learning from Ice’, as she explores ice and the ways in which it tells stories of extraction, shipping, and national sovereignties in the circumpolar region. This will include supporting research into glaciers and ice core archives in Norway and Sápmi, as well as in the high Arctic through OCA’s partnership with the Artica Svalbard foundation in Longyearbyen, Svalbard archipelago.