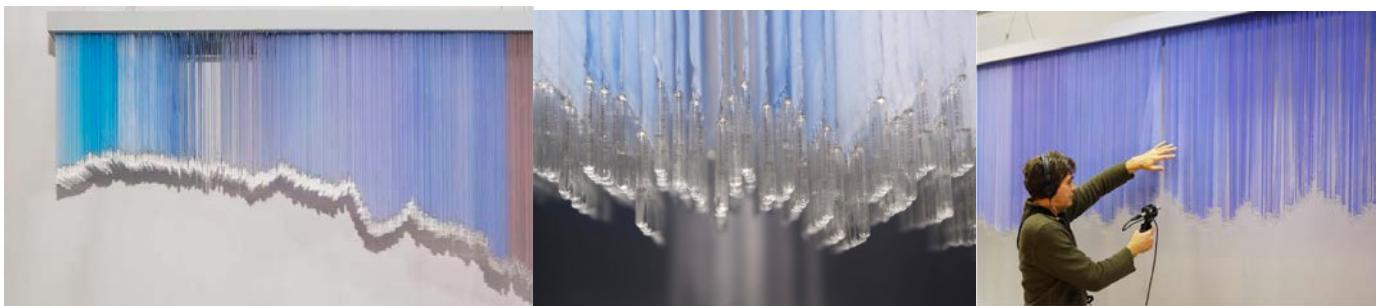


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ANNA MCKEE: 68,000 YEARS OF ICE ON DISPLAY AT NEVADA MUSEUM OF ART

Exhibition showcases 68,000 years of temperature history from Arctic ice cores and glacial environments.



Reno, Nev. (June 21, 2016) – Sounds of icicles dripping and crackling echo from the Earl and Wanda Casazza Gallery inside the Nevada Museum of Art. The amplified sound comes from 3,405 glass ampules that artist Anna McKee sewed to 678 silk panels. Shifting hues hint at untold levels of information and a deep measure of time. Hanging in a long row, the silk panels create a subtle swaying waveform, suggesting a graph. Though abstract, *Anna McKee: 68,000 Years of Ice* expresses 68,000 years of temperature history from an ice sheet. The exhibition will be on display through September 18 at the Nevada Museum of Art, Donald W. Reynolds Center for the Visual Arts, E. L. Wiegand Gallery located at 160 West Liberty Street in downtown Reno.

Anna McKee uses memories that accumulate in the physical world as the basis for her art. McKee is interested in environments where human history intersects geological time. Working at both the micro and macro scale of time and place in ice cores and glaciated environments around the world, McKee transforms data sets into reliquaries as lamentations for climate change. She seeks evidence of time and meaning in the land, especially at the intersections of human activity. Glacial ice has become a metaphor for the deep memory of the natural world.

McKee visited the WAIS Divide Ice Core field camp in Antarctica through the National Science Foundation's Artist and Writers program in 2009. McKee interviewed scientists, watched ice being drilled from a two-mile deep ice sheet and spent hours drawing the white open space. Time on the West Antarctic Ice Sheet significantly impacted McKee's work. In 2012 University of Washington glaciology professor Eric Steig invited McKee to fabricate the glass ampules for the *WAIS Reliquary* at his research lab, using surplus water samples from more than three kilometers of glacier ice. The length and width of each panel was dictated by the temperature and the number of meters of ice that accumulated each 100 years. Projected shadows on the wall and floor stretch and distort this graph, recalling ice sheets that deform through flow, depth and time.

In addition to constructing the *WAIS Reliquary* physical sculpture, McKee collaborated with Seattle composer/sound artist Steve Peters to create a multi-channel sound piece taken from recordings of the reliquary ampules. Peters makes music and sound for many contexts and occasions using environmental recordings, found/natural objects, electronics, acoustic instruments and voices. His work is often site-based, attentive to the subtle nuances of perception and place. The soundscape plays in the gallery as the silk ribbons subtly sway to the tinkling notes, transporting visitors to the ice sheet.

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pg. 2; Contact: Amanda Horn, Director of Communications, 775.398.7228 / amandahorn@nevadaart.org

Anna McKee: 68,000 Years is curated by the Museum's Center for Art + Environment (CA+E), which holds the project archive, one of many at the CA+E from around the world that document the intersection of art, science, and climate change. McKee's archive joins an extensive collection of unique archive materials from more than 1,000 artists working on all seven continents, including Cape Farewell, Michael Heizer, Walter de Maria, Lita Albuquerque, Burning Man, Center for Land Use Interpretation, and Ugo Rondinone's *Seven Magic Mountains*.

Anna McKee: 68,000 Years will be on view through September 18 at the Nevada Museum of Art, Donald W. Reynolds Center for the Visual Arts, E. L. Wiegand Gallery located at 160 West Liberty Street in downtown Reno's Liberty District.

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About the Nevada Museum of Art and Center for Art + Environment

www.nevadaart.org

The Center for Art + Environment (CA+E) is an internationally recognized research center at the Nevada Museum of Art that supports the practice, study and awareness of creative interactions between people and their natural, built, and virtual environments. Launched in January 2009, the CA+E archives now include materials from more than 1,000 artists and organizations on all seven continents. The only accredited art museum in the state, the Nevada Museum of Art is a private, non-profit organization supported by the generosity of its membership as well as by sponsorships and grants. Through creative programming and scholarship, the Museum provides the opportunity for people to encounter, engage, and enjoy a diversity of art experiences.

IMAGE CAPTIONS: (1) Anna McKee, *WAIS Reliquary: 68,000 Years*, studio installation- detail, 22feet long x 14.5" deep x 9ft high, silk, glass, glacier ice water, wood frame (2) Anna McKee, *WAIS Reliquary: 68,000 Years*, studio installation- detail, 22feet long x 14.5" deep x 9ft high, silk, glass, glacier ice water, wood frame 3) Sound Artist Steve Peters recording the tinkling glass ampules, which suggest icicles dripping and crackling. Peters' sound composition accompanies the installation.

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