

**Chris Kannen: An Antarctic Extended Season**  
**Collection CAE1307**

**Introduction/Abstract**

Chris Kannen spent February-April 2008 in the Dry Valleys, Antarctica, for the first extended field season—the first time a research group stayed past mid-February—gathering reference material for a series of oil paintings. He created studies outdoors while based at the Lake Hoare field camp that consisted of an experimental mix of representational and abstract images. Materials include inkjet work prints, drawings and watercolor studies, digital images, various NSF documents, and a PDF of his Antarctica blog.

**Biographical Note: Chris Kannen**

Chris Kannen was born on July 7, 1977 in Cleveland, Ohio. As a child he was involved with programs at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. After becoming an Eagle Scout, he worked as a Ranger at the Philmont wilderness camp in New Mexico, teaching group of teens low impact camping methods and wilderness ethics. He studied illustration and fine art at the University of Dayton, where he also participated in volunteer programs to help the needy in Appalachia, Mexico, Haiti, and Central America. These experiences profoundly affected his decision to become an artist.

In 2001, Chris completed the Master of Fine Art program in Painting at Hunter College in New York City. Afterward, he traveled to Alaska, and completed an Alaskan-influenced body of work that was shown in two gallery shows in New York. He then applied for and was awarded a residency with The Association of Icelandic Visual Artists in December 2004, where he began a series of paintings that were later prominently featured in the 2005 Scope New York International Art Fair and in "After the Arctic," his New York solo show debut at PH Gallery. Chris is currently making paintings in his studio in Bushwick, Brooklyn, and is a production assistant at the DesignTrust for Public Space, a not-for-profit organization that creates public/private partnerships to improve public space in New York City.

**Scope and Content**

Kannen spent February-April 2008 in the Dry Valleys gathering reference material for a series of oil paintings. He was in the valleys for what they called "the extended season," the first time a research group stayed past mid-February. The source material consists of thousands of digital photographs and several hours of standard definition video footage, both of which he has edited down. The material was still very much an influence on his paintings as late as 2013.

During the month of April 2008 at Lake Fryxell Camp and at McMurdo Station, he created a body of works on paper consisting of drawings, watercolors and oil paintings. Based on field sketches, the work is an experimental mix of representational and abstract images intended to push the limits of what he had seen previously produced by other artist and writer grantees. The work employed collage, a local color palette, and in some cases, liquid nitrogen to affect the drying movement of the watercolors.

Materials include inkjet work prints made since Kannen's 2008 trip to Antarctica, a set of highly abstract prints of the Victoria Valley sand dunes, drawings and watercolor studies on paper from McMurdo Station and the Taylor Valley field camps, digital images, various NSF documents, and a PDF of his Antarctica blog.

**Inclusive Dates**

2006 – 2012

**Bulk Dates**

2008

**Quantity / Extent**

1.25 cubic feet

**Language**

English

**Arrangement**

*Chris Kannen: An Antarctic Extended Season* is organized into 35 folders chronologically. Folders 1-3 contain materials related to the NSF proposal and subsequent blog, folders 4-5 contain working photographs and sketches, while folders 6-34 contain digital images taken during Kannen's time in Antarctica. Folders 6-34 are organized by date and location. Folder 35 contains Kannen's work with Mike Davis to prepare a book edit and sequencing.

**Related Archive Collections**

- CAE1042: *Lita Albuquerque: Stellar Axis, Antarctica*
- CAE1103: *Joan Myers: Wondrous Cold, An Antarctic Journey*
- CAE1107: *Stephen Eastaugh: Antarctic Work*
- CAE1112: *Simon Balm: Stellar Axis, Antarctica*
- CAE1116: *Chris Drury: Antarctica*
- CAE1117: *William L. Fox: Terra Antarctica*
- CAE1202: *David Rosenthal: Paintings from the North and South Polar Regions*
- CAE1217: *Paul D. Miller, aka DJ Spooky that Subliminal Kid: Ice Music*
- CAE1218: *Jean de Pomereu: Antarctic Photographs*
- CAE1219: *Stuart Klipper: The Antarctic from the Circle to the Pole*

**Related Publications**

Fogg, G.E., and David Smith. *The Explorations of Antarctica: The Last Unspoilt Continent*. London: Cassell Publishers Limited, 1990.

Fox, William L. *Terra Antarctica: Looking into the Emptiest Continent*. San Antonio, TX: Trinity University Press, 2005.

Klipper, Stuart. *The Antarctic: From the Circle to the Pole*. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books, 2008.

Myers, Joan. *Wondrous Cold: An Antarctic Journey*. Washington, DC; New York, NY: Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service; Smithsonian Books, 2006.

## **Container Listing:**

### **CAE1307: Folders 1-35, 2006 – 2012**

#### **CAE Box 59**

- 1 NSF Proposal Draft and Images, 2006
- 2 NSF Award, Logistics, Reports, 2007 – 2008
- 3 Parhelion Pemmican Pack Ice Pancake Blog, 2008
- 4 Working Sketches, 2008
- 5 Work Prints, 2008
- 6 Digital Images: Feb. 15, 2008, C-17 Arrival
- 7 Digital Images: Feb. 16-17, 2008, McMurdo Station
- 8 Digital Images: Feb. 18-19, 2008, Willy Field
- 9 Digital Images: Feb. 22-23, 2008, Lake Hoare
- 10 Digital Images: Feb. 24-27, 2008, Lake Fryxell
- 11 Digital Images: Mar. 1-2, 2008, Lake Hoare
- 12 Digital Images: Mar. 3-5, 2008, Lake Bonney
- 13 Digital Images: Mar. 6, 2008, Peak 1882
- 14 Digital Images: Mar. 6-8, 2008, Lake Bonney
- 15 Digital Images: Mar. 8, 2008, Mount Coates
- 16 Digital Images: Mar. 9, 11-12, 2008, Lake Bonney
- 17 Digital Images: Mar. 15-17, 2008, Lake Vanda
- 18 Digital Images: Mar. 18, 2008, Garwood Valley
- 19 Digital Images: Mar. 18, 2008, Lake Vanda
- 20 Digital Images: Mar. 20, 2008, Don Juan Pond
- 21 Digital Images: Mar. 20, 2008, Lake Fryxell
- 22 Digital Images: Mar. 20, 2008, Upper Wright Valley
- 23 Digital Images: Mar. 22, 2008, Lake Fryxell
- 24 Digital Images: Mar. 22-24, 2008, Lake Bonney
- 25 Digital Images: Mar. 24, 2008, Hike from Lake Bonney to Lake Hoare through Taylor Valley
- 26 Digital Images: Mar. 24-26, 2008, Lake Hoare
- 27 Digital Images: Mar. 27, 2008, Mount Falconer
- 28 Digital Images: Mar. 27, 2008, Lake Fryxell
- 29 Digital Images: Mar. 28, 2008, Aerial Reconnaissance
- 30 Digital Images: Mar. 29-30, 2008, Lake Fryxell
- 31 Digital Images: Mar. 30-31, 2008, Lake Hoare
- 32 Digital Images: Apr. 2, 2008, Bratina Island
- 33 Digital Images: Apr. 2-7, 9, 11, 2008, McMurdo Station
- 34 Digital Images: Apr. 17, 2008, C-17 Departure
- 35 Mike Davis Photography Book Edit and Sequencing, 2012

## CAE1307: Additional Materials

### CAE S-Box 13:

- 5#35 McMurdo Building at Night, 2008
- 5#36 Water, Don Juan Pond, Wright Valley, March 2008
- 5#37 Looking down at ice, Mummy Ponds, Taylor Valley, 2008 / Shadow, Taylor Valley, 2008
- 5#38 Aerial view of glacier located behind Finger Mountain, 2008
- 5#39 Taylor Valley glaciers from 1882, February 2008
- 5#40 Collapsed, or calved, glacial wall, Canada Glacier, Taylor Valley, 2008 / Boulders, Mount Falconer, 2008
- 5#41 Lake Bonney, Taylor Valley, 2008 / Stone, Bonney Riegel, Taylor Valley, 2008
- 5#42 View from Lake Hoare Camp, 2008
- 5#43 Wright Valley, 2008
- 5#44 Canada Glacier, Tents, February 2008 / Canada Glacier, Taylor Valley, February 2008
- 5#45 Cirrus clouds over Lake Hoare, Taylor Valley, 2008
- 5#46 Ventifact, Taylor Valley, 2008 / Patterned ground, Beacon Valley, 2008
- 5#47 Ventifact, Taylor Valley, 2008 / Pair of boulders, 2008
- 5#48 Ventifacts, Taylor Valley, February 2008 / Ventifacts, Taylor Valley, February 2008
- 5#49 Ventifact, Taylor Valley, 2008 / Roundish boulder with a bluish top, 2008
- 5#50 Ventifact, Taylor Valley, 2008
- 5#51 Ventifact with figure in red, Taylor Valley, 2008
- 5#52 View outward from the Labyrinth, Wright Valley, 2008
- 5#53 Geological formation and mountain shadow, 2008
- 5#54 Stone split up the middle, Taylor Valley, 2008
- 5#55 The Zen Garden, Taylor Valley, March 2008
- 5#56 Boulder, Taylor Valley, 2008
- 5#57 Figure in red walking in boulder field, Taylor Valley, 2008
- 5#58 Victoria Valley sand dune, black void, footsteps, legs, 2008
- 5#59 Victoria Valley sand dune, footsteps, 2008
- 5#60 Taylor Valley from the Defile, 2008

### CAE Flat File F17: Oversized Items

- 5#61 Sand dune detail, Victoria Valley, 2008
- 5#62 Weather monitor detail, Crary Lab, McMurdo, 2008
- 5#63 Sunset and cirrus clouds, Lake Hoare, Taylor Valley, 2008
- 5#64 Figure in front of glacier, Taylor Valley, 2008
- 5#65 Sand dune formation, Victoria Valley, 2008
- 5#66 Interior, mountain tent, Lake Hoare Camp, Taylor Valley, 2008
- 5#67 "Box of Rocks" test print (1 of 3), 2008
- 5#68 "Box of Rocks" test print (2 of 3), 2008
- 5#69 "Box of Rocks" test print (3 of 3), 2008
- 5#70 Ventifact, Taylor Valley, 2008
- 5#71 Boulder buried in gravel, Taylor Valley, 2008
- 5#72 Ventifact, Taylor Valley