



CENTER FOR ART+ENVIRONMENT at the Nevada Museum of Art

Diane Burko: Vanishing Ice and Snow Collection CAE1504

Introduction/Abstract

For more than 40 years, painter Diane Burko has focused on monumental and geological phenomena. Since 2006, Burko has focused on climate change, situating her practice at the intersection of art and science. Materials include ephemera from Burko's whole artistic career, project cover sheets and working reference photographs from her two bodies of work, *Politics of Snow* (2007-2012) and *Polar Investigations* (from 2013-), an Arctic and Antarctic blog, and online interviews.

Biographical Note: Diane Burko

Born in Brooklyn, New York in 1945, Diane Burko graduated from Skidmore College in 1966 receiving a B.S. in art history and painting. She continued her study of painting earning an M.F.A. in 1969 from the Graduate School of Fine Arts of the University of Pennsylvania. Burko went on to become professor of fine arts at the Community College of Philadelphia from 1969-2000. Burko has taught at other schools such as Princeton University, Arizona State University and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.

In 1974, she founded the all city festival: FOCUS: Philadelphia Focus on Women in the Visual Arts – Past and Present as part of her ongoing commitment to the Feminist Art movement. In 1976, Ivan Karp offered Burko a “Dealer’s Showcase” at OK Harris Gallery in New York, NY, which attracted the attention of critic David Bourdon, who reviewed her solo exhibition in *The Village Voice*.

In 1989, the Lila Wallace Reader’s Digest Fund awarded Burko a six-month residency in Giverny, France. In 1993, Burko was awarded a residency at the Rockefeller Study and Conference Center in Bellagio where she painted *en plein air* for five weeks. For her 1994 Locks Gallery exhibition, *Luci ed Ombra di Bellagio* (Lights and Shadow of Bellagio), Robert Rosenblum, who first took an interest in Burko’s work in 1976, wrote the accompanying catalog essay. In 1996, Burko won a \$200,000 Public Art Commission. *Wissahickon Reflections* is a suite of three monumental canvases installed in the interior of the Marriott International Hotel in Philadelphia. In 2000, a \$50,000 Leeway prize enabled Burko to travel to Hawaii, Italy and Iceland, funding a project on Volcanoes, producing a series of photographs and paintings. In 2013, The Independence Foundation supported her travels to the Arctic Circle with an artist fellowship.

In September 2013 she voyaged to Svalbard in the high Arctic with a group of 26 other artists. Before that expedition she was invited to join a research team of geologists in Ny-Alesund (Northern most research station in the world), as they flew and landed on top of Glaciers Kronebreen and Kongsvegen. This complimented her earlier expedition to Antarctica in January. Witnessing melting ice as a key indicator of climate change continued in August, 2014 with explorations at Ilulissat and Eqi glaciers in Greenland. In December she returned to Antarctica as a member of the educational team of the non-profit Students on Ice. After returning from her two-week voyage to the Antarctic peninsula, she flew to El Calafate to explore the southern Patagonian Ice field of Argentina: the Upsala, Perito Moreno, and Viedma Glaciers specifically.

Although Burko has traveled to Iceland, Greenland, the Antarctic and other places she has painted, most of her work is done in her studio from either photographs taken by governmental agencies (e.g. USGS), individuals (e.g. Bradford Washburn), or from her own expeditions.

Scope and Content

For more than 40 years Diane Burko has focused on monumental and geological phenomena throughout the world based on her ability to investigate actual locations on the ground and in the air from open-door helicopters and planes with cameras and sketchpads. Traveling from the temperate zones of America to those of Western Europe, from rain forests to regions of glaciers and active volcanoes, she has created paintings and photographs that merge the panoramic with the intimate.

In 1977, while flying with artist James Turrell in his Helio Courier over the Grand Canyon, Burko captured her first aerial photographs of the landscape. Since then, this has been her preferred process of securing landscape imagery as source material for her paintings. However, since 2000 she began making photographs as art works in themselves.

Since 2006, Burko has focused on climate change, situating her practice at the intersection of art and science. In her *Politics of Snow Project*, and with the addition of the more recent *Polar Investigations* work, she continues to invent visual strategies to make the invisible visible and visceral to the public. This archive contains a comprehensive selection of catalogs and printed ephemera related to her entire career, and source images for 89 paintings, which comprise the majority of the *Politics of Snow* project, as well as images from 2012 that are part of her *Polar Investigations* work.

Materials include ephemera from Burko's whole artistic career, project cover sheets and working reference photographs from her two bodies of work, *Politics of Snow* (2007-2012) and *Polar Investigations* (from 2013-), an Arctic and Antarctic blog, and online interviews.

Burko's art career archives from 1969 to 2000 reside at Rutgers University as part of the Miriam Schapiro Archives on Women Artists.

Inclusive Dates

1977 - 2015

Bulk Dates

2009 - 2014

Quantity / Extent

1 cubic foot

Language

English

Arrangement

Diane Burko: Vanishing Ice and Snow is organized into six folders. The first two folders are Burko's two Polar projects, the third is her blog, and the final three folders are supporting materials such as grants, exhibition materials, and press and other published materials.

Related Archive Collections

CAE1104: *The Canary Project: Landscapes of Climate Change*

Related Publications

Alloway, Lawrence and Lenore Malen. *Diane Burko*. Philadelphia PA: Marion Locks Gallery, 1988.

Andrews, Lynne. *Antarctic Eye: The Visual Journey*. Mornington, Tasmania: Studio One, 2007.

Art in Embassies. *United States Embassy Copenhagen: ART in Embassies Exhibition*. Washington DC: ART in Embassies, 2012.

Ballinger, James K., and Andrea D. Rubenstein. *Visitors to Arizona 1846 to 1980*. Phoenix AZ: Phoenix Art Museum, 1980.

Bourdon, David. *Land Survey: 1970 – 1995, Paintings by Diane Burko*. Bethlehem PA: Payne Gallery of Moravian College, 1995.

Balog, James. *Ice: Portraits of Vanishing Glaciers*. New York, NY: Rizzoli International Publications, 2012.

Burko, Diane. *Diane Burko: Reflets, Paintings from Giverny*. Philadelphia, PA: Marion Locks Gallery, 1990.

Burko, Diane. *Diane Burko: The Politics of Snow*. Philadelphia, PA: Locks Gallery, 2010.

Burko, Diane. *Diane Burko: The Volcano Series*. Philadelphia, PA: Locks Gallery, 2001.

Burko, Diane. *Diane Burko: Water Matters*. Santa Fe, NM: LewAllen Galleries, 2012.

Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine. *The Value of Water*. New York, NY: The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, 2011.

Ehrlich, Gretel. *In the Empire of Ice: Encounters in a Changing Landscape*. Washington, DC: National Geographic, 2010.

Foster, Tony. *Ice and Fire: Watercolour Diaries of Volcano Journeys*. Exeter, Devon, England: Seattle, WA: Royal Albert Memorial Museum; Meyerson + Nowinski, 1998.

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

Goodyear, Frank H. Jr., *Contemporary American Realism: since 1960*, Boston MA. New York Geographic Society, 1981

McLane, Preston. *Terrestrial Forces*. Tallahassee, FL: Florida State University Museum of Fine Arts, 2004.

Museum of the Philadelphia Civic Center. *Earth Art '73*. Philadelphia PA: The Philadelphia Civic Center, 1973.

Burko, Diane. *Diane Burko: Landscapes: Paint/Pixel*. Philadelphia PA: Rider University Art Gallery in cooperation with Locks Gallery, 2004.

Ratcliff, Carter. *Diane Burko: The Volcano Series*. Philadelphia PA: Locks Art Publications, 2001.

Rosenblum, Robert. *Diane Burko: Luci ed ombra di Bellagio*. (The Light and Shadow of Bellagio) Philadelphia PA: Locks Gallery, 1994.

Seaman, Camille. *Melting Away*. New York, NY: Princeton Architectural Press, 2015.

Sasse, Julie and Emily Handlin. *Trouble in Paradise: Examining the Discord between Nature and Society*. Tucson, AZ: Tucson Museum of Art, 2009.

Spring, Justin. *Diane Burko: Earth Water Fire Ice*. Philadelphia PA: Locks Art Publications, 2004.

Talasek, J.D., *Imagining Deep Time*. Washington, DC: Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences, 2014.

Container Listing:

CAE1504: Folders 1-6, 1977 – 2015

CAE Box 20

- 1 The Politics of Snow, 2007 – 2012
- 2 Polar Investigations, 2013 – 2014
- 3 Artist Blogs, 2013 – 2015
- 4 Grant Materials, 2014
- 5 Exhibition Ephemera, 1977 – 2014
- 6 Articles, Press, and Online Materials, 2010 – 2014

CAE1504: Additional Materials

CAE Box 83: Objects

- 1#34 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Disappearing Series*, 2007
- 1#35 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Okpilak Glacier Diptych*, 2007
- 1#36 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *20 Mile Glacier Diptych*, 2009
- 1#37 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Bear Glacier Diptych*, 2009
- 1#38 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Grinnell Glacier Overlook Diptych*, 2009
- 1#39 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Grinnell Mt. Gould Diptych*, 2009
- 1#40 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Kilimanjaro Diptych*, 2009
- 1#41 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Portage Glacier Diptych*, 2009
- 1#42 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Qori Kalis Diptych 1*, 2009
- 1#43 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Qori Kalis Diptych 2*, 2009
- 1#44 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Tebenkok Glacier Diptych*, 2009
- 1#45 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Boulder Glacier Diptych*, 2010
- 1#46 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Columbia Glacier Triptych*, 2010
- 1#47 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Everest Quadtych*, 2010
- 1#48 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Grinnell North Moraine Diptych*, 2010
- 1#49 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Khumbu Icefall Diptych*, 2010
- 1#50 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Khumbu Icefall-Everest Diptych*, 2010

- 1#51 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Kilimanjaro Quadtych*, 2010
- 1#52 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Nunatak Glacier Diptych*, 2010
- 1#53 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Columbia Glacier III*, 2011
- 1#54 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Columbia Glacier Quadtych*, 2011
- 1#55 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Davidson Glacier Diptych*, 2011
- 1#56 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Johns Hopkins Gilman Glacier*, 2011-12
- 1#57 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Arctic Hurricane*, 2012
- 1#58 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *NASA Tracking Petermann*, 2012
- 1#59 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Petermann Calving*, 2012
- 1#60 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Petermann Heading South*, 2012
- 2#10 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Antarctic Diptych (Day and Night)*, 2013
- 2#11 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Antarctica Quartet*, 2013
- 2#12 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Paradise Channel Lemaire 1-4*, 2013
- 2#13 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Petermann Quadtych*, 2013
- 2#14 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Approaching Kronebreen Triptych*, 2014
- 2#15 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Kronebreen 1990*, 2014
- 2#16 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Kronebreen Front*, 2014
- 2#17 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Main Rongbuk Glacier Triptych*, 2014
- 2#18 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Ortophoto Kongsfjorden*, 2014

CAE Box 57: Large Objects

- 1#61 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Columbia Triptych II*, 2010
- 1#62 Cover Sheet and Reference Photographs for *Bear Glacier Triptych*, 2011