

*Anna McKee: 68,000 Years of Ice*

Anna McKee uses memories that accumulate in the physical world as the basis for her art. She is interested in environments where human history intersects geological time. She often works at both the micro and macro scale of time and place in ice cores and glaciated environments around the world, transforming data sets into reliquaries as lamentations for climate change.

Starting in 2005, scientists began drilling an ice core in the West Antarctic Ice Sheet. In 2012 they completed the 3,405-meter drilling that provided one of the deepest and most detailed cores ever collected. This two mile long cylinder of ice contains a unique record of our climate during the last 68,000 years. McKee visited the project in the Antarctic in 2009 to sketch and photograph the field work. She then created 3,405 glass ampules at the University of Washington that she filled with water from each meter of the ice core, then sewed them to 678 silk panels, each one representing a century of 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.

McKee collaborated with Seattle composer and sound artist Steve Peters, who recorded the tinkling glass ampules that suggest icicles dripping and cracking. His sound composition accompanies the installation.