

HELEN GLAZER: WALKING IN ANTARCTICA

Helen Glazer visited the Antarctic for two months in 2015 as a participant in the National Science Foundation's Antarctic Artists and Writers Program. The overall goal of her artistic practice is to provide people “with an understanding of scientific concepts of growth and form in nature and the physical processes that shape the landscape.” To accomplish her goal in the Antarctic, Glazer photographed ice and geological formations. She used these images as the basis for scans from which she made 3D printed sculptures. Based on her photographs, she also compiled a series of audio tours of the Antarctic landscape that include walks over frozen lakes, around glaciers and sea ice formations, into an ice cave, across fields of boulders, and through a colony of nesting Adélie penguins.

Glazer's photographs of icebergs, pressure ridges, sea ice, and glaciers are portraits of the many forms ice can take on and around the world's coldest continent. Her landscape sculptures are the first 3D printed artworks made of the Antarctic. The miniature version in this exhibition displays part of the glacial “snout,” or terminus of the Canada Glacier in the Dry Valleys across the Ross Sea from McMurdo Station. The photograph exhibited here is one of the images from which the sculpture is derived.

Glazer's multimedia project provides a unique representation of the world's most forbidding landscape. The audio tours are available on the artist's website, which can be accessed by searching “Helen Glazer” and choosing the “Walking in Antarctica” option.

Materials for this exhibition are drawn from Helen Glazer's project archive at the Center for Art + Environment Archive Collections.