

Cape Farewell Collection CAE1602

Introduction/Abstract

In 2001, the artist David Buckland created the Cape Farewell project to instigate a cultural response to the climate challenge, which is now an international not-for-profit program that uses expeditions to look into the scientific, social, and economic realities of climate disruption.

Biographical Note: David Buckland

David Buckland is a designer, artist, and film-maker whose lens-based works have been exhibited in numerous galleries in London, Paris, and New York and collected by the National Portrait Gallery, London; the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; the Metropolitan Museum, New York; and, the Getty Collection among others. Five books of his photographs have been published including works on the Trojan Wars and the Last Judgement featuring sculptures of Sir Anthony Caro, and two monographs of his own work. He has designed over 20 stage sets, as well as costumes for Siobhan Davies Dance, the Royal Ballet, Rambert Dance Company, Second Stride, and Compagnie Cré-Ange. His short film for the Dance for the Camera season *Dwell Time* was broadcast on BBC2 in January 1996.

David Buckland is the Founder and Director of The Cape Farewell project, which was created in 2001. Buckland has produced two major films, *Art From The Arctic* for the BBC and *Burning Ice* for Sundance TV. He has co-curated major climate art exhibitions, *Art and Climate Change* for the National History Museum, London 2006; *Earth* for the Royal Society of Arts 2009; *U-n-f-o-l-d* 2010 – 2013, which has toured worldwide; *Carbon 12* for the EDF foundation gallery in Paris, 2012; *Carbon 13* for the Ballroom Texas, 2013; and the *Carbon 14* exhibition for the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, 2013 – 2014.

Buckland / Cape Farewell has published five books, *Burning Ice* 2006; *eARTh* 2009 [with The Royal Academy London]; *U-n-f-o-l-d* 2010; *Expedition* [with University of Arts, London] 2014; *Exchange* [with Chris Drury and Kay Syrad] 2015. Buckland has published the article News Feature *Climate Is Culture*, in *Nature*, 2012; *University of Cambridge/State of Sustainability* 2012; and the *South Atlantic Quarterly* 2017.

Scope and Content

In 2001, the artist David Buckland created the Cape Farewell project to instigate a cultural response to the climate challenge. Cape Farewell is now an international not-for-profit program based at the WaterShed UK. The North American Cape Farewell Foundation 2010 – 2018, was based at the MaRS centre in Toronto. It is the oldest and largest Art & Climate Change program in the world.

Cape Farewell uses expeditions – Arctic, island, urban and conceptual – to explore the scientific, social, and economic realities that lead to the climate crisis. Since 2003 Cape Farewell has led eight expeditions to the Arctic, two to the Scottish Islands, one to the Peruvian Andes and one to the Marshall Islands, RMI, taking creatives, scientists, educators, and communicators to experience the effects of climate change firsthand. More than 350 artists, scientists, and writers have participated in these expeditions. Discoveries found on the trips are recorded and relayed through scientific experiments, live web broadcasts, film, events, exhibitions and the overall insights of artists and educators. These expeditions resulted in an incredible and varied body of artworks, exhibitions, publications, and educational resources. Each journey is a catalyst for all subsequent activity. For example, an expedition was made in September 2008 to Disko Bay on the west coast of Greenland, in partnership with the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton, The University of

Southampton, and the British Geological Survey Edinburgh. Scientists onboard extended their investigations into climate while artists, writers, and communicators kept blogs posting their response, subsequently writing several pop songs, two operas, one major touring exhibition, and the broadcast film *Burning Ice*. The crew included musicians, comedians, composers, theatre makers, visual artists, architects, poets, film directors, and oceanographers. Several of the participants were artists Sir Antony Gormley and Dame Rachel Whiteread, choreographer Dame Siobhan Davies, composer Ryuichi Sakamoto, musicians Jarvis Cocker and KT Tunstall, and playwright Suzan-Lori Parks.

In 2023 Cape Farewell, in partnership with USA artist Mike Light, the poet and Marshallese climate ambassador Kathy Jetñil-Kijiner and the Nevada Museum of Art, Art and Environment, launched the most complex and ambitious expedition yet. *Kōmij Mour Ijin / Our Life Is Here*. Thirty artists, scientists and film crew navigated five Atolls of the Marshall Islands exploring the devastation caused by the nuclear testing on Bikini and the danger of climate induced sea level rise. This 3000-year-old culture of the Marshall Islands is under severe threat. A major exhibition, two books, 20 artworks and a feature film are under production.

Materials include documents, digital images, audio, video, posters, publications, objects, and exhibition ephemera.

This archive is currently in process.