

From Penguins to Polar Bears

The Impacts of
Climate Change

Sponsor: Elizabeth W. and Henry A. Morss, Jr., Colloquia Endowed Fund

About the artists



Aurélie Lebrun du Puytison is a prolific French artist whose work is defined in the artistic medium of fine watercolors and sculpture. A graduate of “Ecole supérieure des arts appliqués Duperré” in Paris in 2004, she has exhibited her watercolor paintings in European and international exhibitions.

In 2012, her work was selected at the International Exhibit of Painting and Sculpture in Vittel, France. In May 2013, her watercolors were exhibited at the prestigious International Watercolour Biennial in Namur, Belgium. As of February 2014, her paintings are a part of the permanent collection exhibited at the Gallery Ô in Evian les Bains, France.

Her creations are the consequence of pictorial gestures masterfully expressed in refined brush movement formed in water pigments. Aurélie Lebrun du Puytison sees her watercolor paintings as reflective of nature’s voice and hopes to alert us to the potentially irreparable changes we are causing to the beauty of nature. Polar environments are places of mystery and she portrays sensitively her fascination for these fragile and pristine environments in her stunning watercolors.

The exhibition, “From Penguins to Polar Bears—The Impact of Climate Change,” is the outcome of an intimate collaboration with her sister, Stephanie Jenouvrier, a scientific researcher of seabirds’ ecology at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Inspired by photographs her sister captured during her expeditions in Antarctica, Aurélie created this thematic pictorial series on endangered species in polar environments.

She notes, “I sought to artistically express the changing climate through warm colors integrated into the atmospheric landscape.”

Animals such as polar bears, Wandering albatrosses, Emperor penguins and Wedell seals are envisioned in fading imagery—their fate and future unknown.

Through her sensitive vision as an artist, Aurélie Lebrun du Puytison reflects the beauty, perseverance, and fragility of these magnificent beings with whom we share the precious beauty of earth—a hymn to life, and to all creation.



Chris Linder is a professional science and natural history photographer and multimedia producer. His photography career began while working as a research technician at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, where he was frequently called on to document oceanographic expeditions at the ends of the earth.

Since 2002, Chris has focused on communicating the stories of scientists working in the Arctic and Antarctic. His education and training as an oceanographer give him a special insight into photographing science. To date he has photographed 38 major scientific field projects, 21 of which have been in the polar regions.

His project, titled “Live from the Poles,” connected researchers with the public during the 2007-2009 International Polar Year using daily online photo essays and lectures “from the ice” to museum audiences via satellite. This project, funded by the US National Science Foundation and the Richard King Mellon Foundation, took him from the Greenland Ice Sheet to penguin colonies on Antarctica’s Ross Island.

Chris’s images have appeared in museums, books, calendars, and international magazines, including *Canadian Geographic*, *Geo (Germany)*, *Nature’s Best*, *Outdoor Photographer*, and *Wired*. He is the author/photographer of the hardcover book *Science on Ice* (University of Chicago Press, 2011) and is a Senior Fellow in the International League of Conservation Photographers.

Chris’s future science documentary projects include: tracking carbon released from Siberia’s thawing permafrost and understanding climate impacts on seabirds.

About this exhibition



Stéphanie Jenouvrier is a WHOI Assistant Scientist and seabird ecologist, who has been researching the population trends of Antarctic seabirds such as the Emperor penguin for over a decade. Jenouvrier curated this photography and art exhibit of polar animals as part of a polar science colloquium at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) to inform the public about the effects of global climate change.

No place on the planet is more vulnerable to climate change than the polar regions of the Arctic and the Antarctic. Warming waters and the loss of sea ice are affecting the habitat and food source for many polar species from penguins in Antarctica to polar bears in the Arctic. To discuss these issues, Jenouvrier has brought together leading scientists in the fields of polar research this week for a scientific workshop and a free public event in Woods Hole.

Jenouvrier also believes in the power of art as a way to communicate science. This exhibit features watercolor paintings by her sister Aurélie Lebrun du Puytison and photographs by Chris Linder, whom she met while working in a field camp in Antarctica. She was inspired to assemble experts in this field, artists, and the public in order to help advance the science, public policy, and public understanding of global climate change.