

Norton Museum of Art

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Norton Organizes Exhibition Exploring Climate Change, Featuring Works by Artist Justin Brice Guariglia

Unique Photographic Works by Artist Who Flew with NASA will be on View in *Earth Works: Mapping the Anthropocene*

Premieres on September 5, 2017

West Palm Beach Florida (Aug. 1, 2017) — The Norton Museum of Art announces a timely exhibition that depicts how humans are directly and indirectly impacting the planet. *Earth Works: Mapping the Anthropocene* will feature 22 new and recent works by Justin Brice Guariglia, a transdisciplinary artist, who in 2015 and 2016, flew seven times with NASA as part of Operation IceBridge, a survey mission of Greenland to study how melting glaciers affect sea level rise. Guariglia's photographic works, which can be viewed as blurring the line between photography and painting, explore our current ecological crisis. Ranging in scale from as small as 2.5 x 3.3 feet to as large as 12 x 16 feet, these images illustrate Greenland's melting and deteriorating glacial ice sheets and sea ice in stunning detail and on a monumental scale. Other images reflect the impact of agriculture and mining on the Earth's surface. The exhibition, curated by Tim B. Wride, the Norton's William and Sarah Ross Soter Curator of Photography, opens on September 5, 2017 and runs through January 7, 2018.



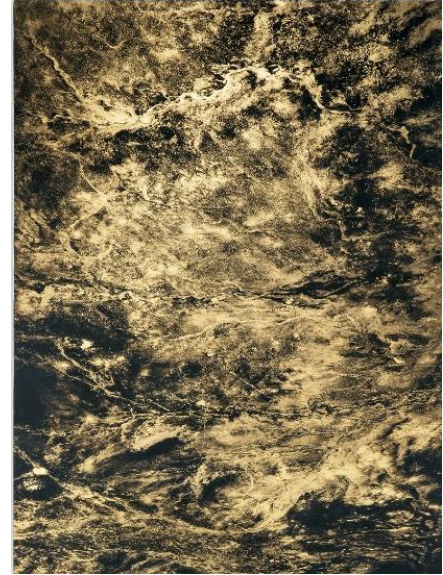
The Anthropocene – the age in which humans' permanent mark on the entire planet, from the far reaches of the atmosphere to the lowest depths of the ocean – represents a new era in geologic history. The images Guariglia took during his flights with NASA, as well as previous works taken from his travels across Asia, serve to illustrate with visual evidence, and through metaphor, the complexity of human impact on the planet.

“Justin's works mapping man's impact on the planet range far beyond making images that are formally and aesthetically compelling. His use of materials in the final product—the object that carries the image—is what truly sets the work apart from his contemporaries,” said Wride. “Nominally a photographer, his camera is only his first tool. Guariglia uses unique acrylic printing processes, which he is pioneering, to create his works.”

Guariglia uses an ultra-archival printing process to build layers of acrylic on substrates giving the works a physical depth and dimension. Incorporating materials such as polystyrene, gold-, palladium- and pewter-leafed panels, and aircraft grade aluminum.

Wride added: “In a poetic twist, his images become objects in which the materials, the process, and the subject reference one another to produce artifacts of incredible durability, which will endure long after his subjects are gone.”

The exhibition is divided into three sections: **Agriculture and Mining, Glacial Ice,** and **Sea Ice.** In Agriculture and Mining, shimmering panels measuring up to 80 x 60 inches are layered with gold and other precious-metal leaf, gesso, and acrylic ink, to depict the impacts of agriculture and mining on the Asian continent, where Guariglia spent 20 years living and working for *Smithsonian*, *The New York Times*, and numerous other publications. In this section, in a series titled *Landscape Studies* (2015-2016), Guariglia depicts visual evidence of global warming. In a reverse echo of the stripping process of mining, Guariglia’s printing process creates images by adding many layers of ink, whereas these damaged landscapes were created by removing one layer of earth at a time.



While flying over Greenland with NASA, he captured images of the 110,000-year-old glaciers covering the island-nation’s surface. In the Glacial Ice section of the exhibition, *JAKOBSHAVN I* (2015-2016)—a nine-panel work that is 16 x 12 feet—shows the now-disappeared surface of a “galloping glacier” that deposits 38 billion tons of ice a year into the ocean, a pace which is increasing yearly due to rising temperatures from human impacted climate change. *QAANAAQ I* (2015-2016), recently acquired by the Norton for its collection, is a 10.5 x 8 foot, four-panel work that depicts the ever changing icy landscape of a Greenland in flux. Guariglia, however, has chosen to print this abstract scene on polystyrene—a material that will last for thousands of years, and is one of the markers of the Anthropocene that is destined to become part of the fossil record, which will delineate the epoch.

The final section, Sea Ice offers dark black images with a scattering of white constellations recall the heavens, but in fact depict sea ice, the cast offs and remnants of dying glaciers, as seen from the troposphere and stratosphere. Resembling tiny far-flung archipelagoes, these images depict the new realities of dwindling sea ice coverage in our arctic oceans.

This exhibition is made possible by the generosity of Vanessa and Anthony Beyer. Additional

support is provided by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, The William and Sarah Ross Soter Photography Fund, and The Sydell and Arthur I. Meyer Endowment Fund. After debuting at the Norton, the exhibition will travel to the USC Fisher Museum of Art at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

About the Artist

Justin Brice Guariglia was born in 1974 and lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. He is a trans-disciplinary artist working at the nexus of painting, printmaking, photography, and sculpture. His work explores ecology through the lens of politics, culture, science, journalism, mythology and art history. His experimentation with materials, processes, and techniques inform and shape the work, forging new ways of seeing and experiencing the world. Guariglia's work is in the collections of the Norton Museum of Art; the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; and numerous private collections. Guariglia was awarded the Howard Foundation Fellowship in Photography for the 2017-2018 academic year at Brown University and a Science Sandbox @ New Lab Fellowship in 2017.

About the Norton Museum of Art

Founded in 1941, the Norton Museum of Art is recognized for its distinguished holdings in American, European, and Chinese art, and a continually expanding presence for Photography and Contemporary art. Its masterpieces of 19th century and 20th century European painting and sculpture include works by Brancusi, Gauguin, Matisse, and Picasso, and American works by Stuart Davis, Hopper, O'Keeffe, Pollock, and Sheeler.

The Norton presents special exhibitions, lectures, tours, and programs for adults and children throughout the year. In 2011, the Norton launched RAW (Recognition of Art by Women), featuring the work of a living female painter or sculptor and funded by the Leonard and Sophie Davis Fund/MLDauray Arts Initiative. In 2012, the Norton established the biennial, international Rudin Prize for Emerging Photographers in partnership with Beth Rudin DeWoody, named in honor of her late father, Lewis Rudin.

In 2016, the Norton broke ground for a visionary expansion designed by architecture firm Foster + Partners, under the direction of Pritzker Prize-winning architect Lord Norman Foster. The project reorients the Norton's entrance to the main thoroughfare of South Dixie Highway, restoring the symmetry of the museum's original 1941 design, and includes a new 42,000-square-foot West Wing that doubles education space, and increases gallery space for the Norton's renowned collection. The transformation of the Museum's 6.3-acre campus will create a museum in a garden, featuring new, verdant spaces and a sculpture garden.

The Norton is located at 1451 S. Olive Ave. in West Palm Beach, FL., and during construction through December 2018 is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday noon to 5 p.m. and Thursday, noon to 9 p.m., and is free to the public. The Museum is closed on Mondays and major holidays. For additional information, please call (561) 832-5196, or visit www.norton.org.

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Image Captions

Justin Brice Guariglia, *JAKOBHAVN I*, acrylic, polystyrene, 192" x 133" x 1.75", 2015/2016.
Image courtesy of the artist. © 2017

Justin Brice Guariglia, *LANDSCAPE STUDY I, GOLD*, 2014-2015. Acrylic, 22 kt. gold leaf, gesso, linen, aluminum panel. 40 x 30 x 0.6 in. Courtesy of the artist. © 2017

Justin Brice Guariglia, *ÖBÜR I*, 2011 / 2015. Acrylic, gesso, linen, aluminum panel 80 x 60 x 0.8 in. Courtesy of the artist. © 2017

These images and others available upon request.