

# RIPPLES: SHIFTING REALITIES IN THE ARCTIC

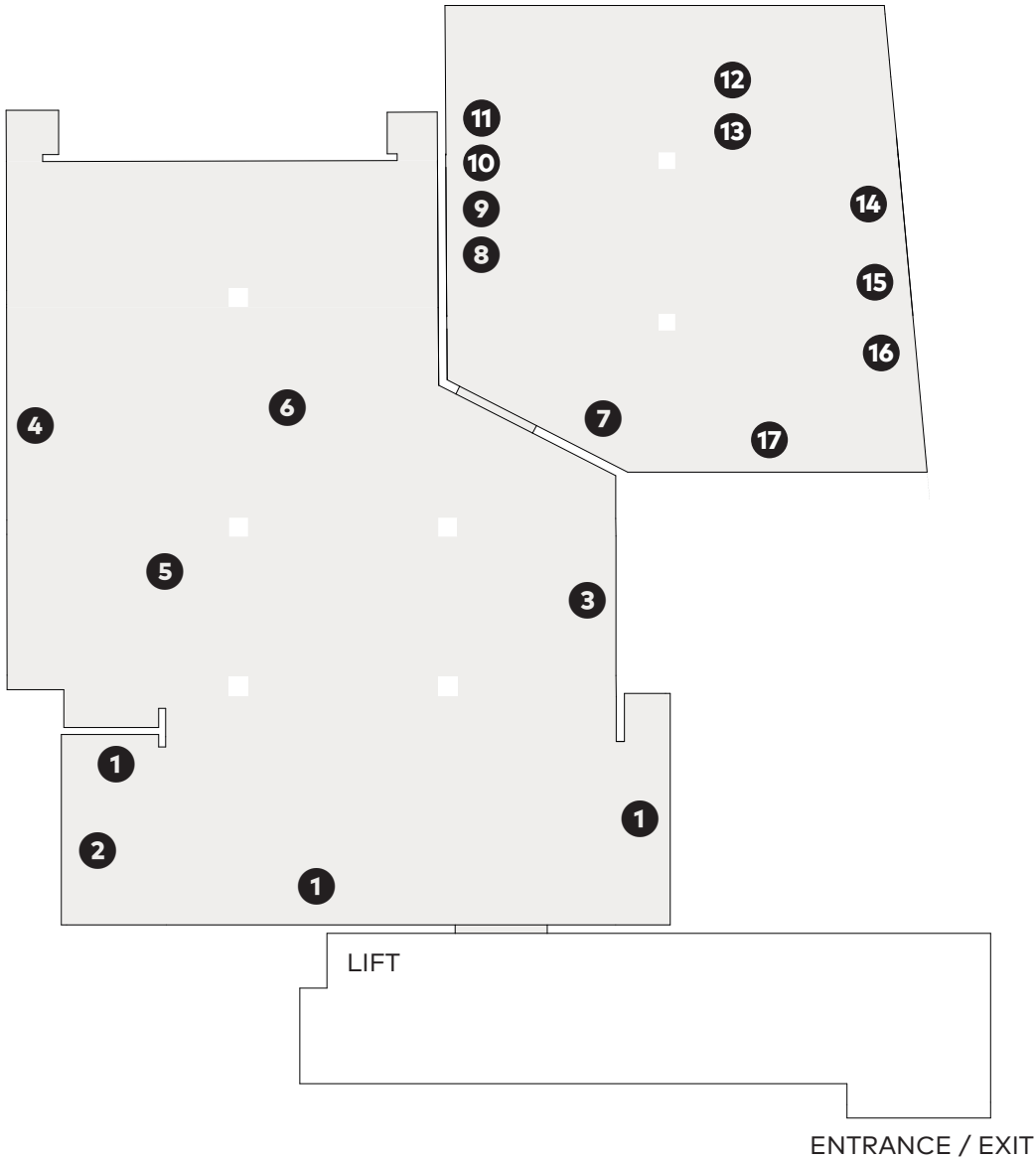
07.02.2026 – 26.04.2026

This exhibition brings together artists and scientists who explore the profound environmental, cultural, and perceptual transformations unfolding across the Arctic today. It reflects on the impacts of climate change on snow, ice, and glacial landscapes, while inviting viewers to consider humanity's relationship with nature and the cultural significance of northern environments.

The title Ripples evokes the idea that even subtle shifts can set larger changes in motion. In the Arctic, a small temperature rise can accelerate glacial melt, alter ocean currents, disrupt ecosystems, and reshape cultural practices. A ripple effect that expands far beyond its point of origin. These interlinked processes remind us that the Arctic is not an isolated frontier, but a dynamic system whose transformations reverberate across the globe. Ripples can also move in the opposite direction, as collective action, cultural knowledge, and scientific collaboration generate new forms of adaptation, resilience, and care.

At its core, Ripples seeks to evoke both wonder and responsibility. By integrating scientific insight, artistic imagination, and Indigenous perspectives, the exhibition encourages visitors to reflect on the interconnectedness of natural systems and the ethical implications of environmental change. It challenges us to look beyond the aesthetic surface of melting ice and shifting weather patterns and to consider our own position within these planetary processes.

In bringing together these voices and visions, Ripples strengthens and amplifies the message that the future of the Arctic is inseparable from our shared global future.



## ARTISTS

Britta Marakatt-Labba 12 13 14 15 16 17  
Ívinguak Stork Høegh 7 8 9 10 11  
Josefina Nelimarkka 4 5 6  
Þorvarður Árnason 1 2 3

## CURATOR

Ásthildur Jónsdóttir



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The Nordic House

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## ÞORVARÐUR ÁRNASON – ICELAND

**1. Video projections, 2026** The projections offer an immersive encounter with Vatnajökull, shifting from close-ups of ice and meltwater to sweeping aerial views that reveal the glacier's scale. This choreography of perspectives, ranging from ground-level to bird's-eye to nearabstract angles, highlights the nuances of perceiving a glacial landscape. Visitors are invited to step behind the fabric screen, placing themselves within the projected imagery and briefly inhabiting the shifting terrain unfolding across its surface.

**2. Ice Cave, 2024.** Ice caves can be strikingly blue because the dense, ancient glacial ice only lets the blue rays of sunlight through, and reflects them to the atmosphere.

**3. The Hoffellsjökull Series (photographs), 2008–2015** The work is based on a long-term monitoring project that lasted for 8 consecutive years. It involved repeat photography, one photo per month, from a fixed location in front of the original glacier margin, documenting its retreat over time.

## JOSEFINA NELIMARKKA – FINLAND

Finnish artist Josefinä Nelimarkka combines artistic experimentation with interdisciplinary research to explore natural phenomena, climate futures, and expanded perception. In *The Cloud of Un/knowning*, she draws on Iceland's meteorological forces and the glacial processes of Vatnajökull, tracing water's movement through the hydrological cycle as both physical process and metaphor for uncertainty.

### *The Cloud of Un/knowning, 2024:*

**4. The Cloud Hour (Video and sound installation, interactive data technology)** Real-time data from a weather station atop the Nordic House drives the shifting video and sound, translating invisible atmospheric conditions into vaporous visuals and sonic textures.

**5. Intensities, futurities (Glass sculptures, data-driven light)** The light in the glass works changes in real time according to the water isotope values detected from water vapour in the glacier Vatnajökull. Subtle movements reveal formations of air trapped inside the glass as a result of the dynamic glassblowing process. The work highlights the invisible, rapidly changing yet meaningful moments that are constantly occurring in the areas that are warming faster than the rest of the Earth.

**6. Beneath the transient states, there is now (Silk installation, nanomicroscopy)** The artwork is based on the artist's long-term research on ancient weather. The information on the climatic processes of the past is stored in the environment, carried by rocks, meteorites, corals, and algae. Images of these were produced with the nanomicroscope meet on the surface of the silk. Traces of the climates of different times and places manifest how sensitively nature has reacted to the environmental changes when conditions on Earth have altered.

Josefinä Nelimarkka has set up a weather observation station on the roof of the Nordic House in collaboration with Vaisala.

## BRITTA MARAKATT-LABBA – SÁPMI

**7. Video** The video shows *Historjá*, a 24-meter-long embroidered narrative that recounts Sámi history with characteristic precision and symbolism. Every stitch carries memory, capturing the resilience of a people whose lives have been intimately intertwined with nature and tradition. The work invites reflection on cultural continuity and the ways history is recorded, remembered, and retold.

**8. Snow Dust (silkscreen print)** The swirling snow becomes a storytelling element, tracing journeys and landscapes across time.

**9. The Lake That Was Emptied (silkscreen print)** The work documents the loss of Lake Luossajärvi in Kiruna, emptied to accommodate mining operations. For generations, the lake provided rest for migrating reindeer and respite for herding families, while also serving as a recreation space for local people. The disappearance of this place reflects the deep and often overlooked consequences of industrial expansion on Sámi life, culture, and the natural world.

**10. The Environment Cannot Wait (silkscreen print)** The work shows the silhouette of a mining mountain looms over what were once lush pastures. The work draws attention to the tension between industrial exploitation, climate change, and the urgent need to protect fragile ecosystems. The environmental and cultural stakes of global warming are in the foreground, emphasizing that these threats are not abstract, they affect real landscapes, communities, and generations.

**11. On the Way (silkscreen)** The work depicts the annual migration of reindeer to summer grazing grounds, a vital ritual of Sámi life. Through her distinctive visual language, capturing movement, care, and continuity, illustrating how tradition, landscape, and survival are inseparably linked.

## ÍVINGUAK STORK HØEGH – KALAALLIT NUNAAT

**12. In the Ice Mountain, 2022**

**13. Sikorsuaq – Big Iceberg, 2021**

**14. Beach Day (digital photocollage, 2025)** from the series *Arctic Exotic*, explores exoticism by pairing Greenlandic scenes with tropical imagery. These playful juxtapositions reveal colonial legacies in photography and its role in defining the "other." Rather than direct critique, the project uses hybridity and visual collision to examine how cultural encounters are shaped through layered, fractured perspectives.

**15. Nipersuaq – There Is a Lot of Noise Around Here, 2015 (digital photocollage)**

**16. Untitled, 2025 (digital photocollage)**

Both works are from the series *My Home – My Society*. Using layered photography and collage to portray life in Greenland, blending portraits, architectural fragments, and textured details, they explore nationalism, care, and social struggle. Influenced by graffiti and street art, the series reflects on forces shaping daily life in the rapidly globalizing city of Nuuk.

**17. STOP, 2025 (digital photocollage and video).** Here, a surprise awaits the viewer. By pausing, moving closer, and peering through the gaze of the woman in the foreground, the work opens onto something unexpected.

In the children's library, you'll find the exhibition *The North*, which is in dialogue with the exhibition *Ripples: Shifting Realities in the Arctic*. You can ask a staff member at the reception to open the door for you.

Works by Ívinguak Stork Høegh and Þorvarður Árnason are also on display there.



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