

OPEN CALL: Pages from the Frozen Sea

Co-Curators: *Eva Mantell & Sarah Stengle*

A book must be the ax for the frozen sea within us.

—FRANZ KAFKA

THE PROJECT

MAKE A PAGE OUT OF ICE: Use a block of ice, any size, any shape (one you have found or created, outdoors or in your freezer) and shape it as a space for expression. Freeze art, poetry, sculpture, drawing, messages, seeds, natural materials and more within/around/on/under it. Note how and for how long the ice stays frozen, how it contains as well as melts and changes and how its message transforms as warmth unlocks it. Photograph your project and post the photograph to the *Pages from the Frozen Sea* Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/pagesfromthefrozensea/>

WHEN: On or before Saturday, January 28, 2017, any time of day or night.

WHERE: In your city, town, at your beach, in the woods, on the water, on a sidewalk, in a park, anywhere in the world.

HOW: You could make your project using found ice, or, depending on where you live, you could use a freezer to create it. Containers may be filled and frozen in layers, with elements added. You may need to plan ahead or you may want to be spontaneous.

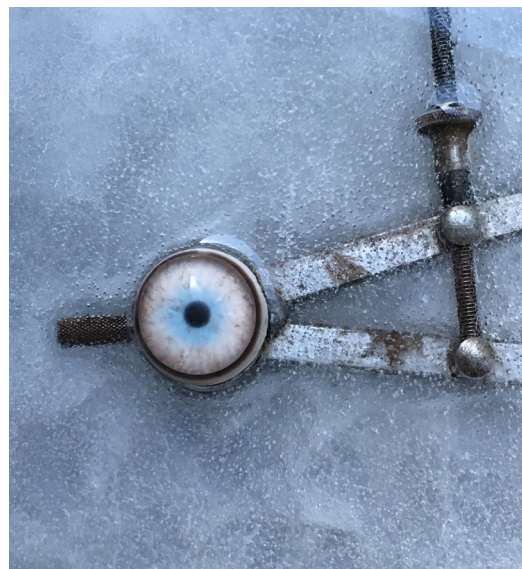
WHO: This is an open call to participate for artists, poets, writers, thinkers, performers, musicians, students and teachers of all ages and from around the world.

SHARE: On or before January 28, 2017, please document your frozen or melting artwork and post your photographs to *Pages from the Frozen Sea* on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/pagesfromthefrozensea/>

CONSCIENTIOUSNESS: Please be mindful of the environmental and social consequences of what you do. We do not want this project to add to any further pollution or discord to the world. We reserve the right to remove documentation of contributions we deem hateful or harmful.



Eva Mantell © 2016



Sarah Stengle © 2016

FROM THE CO-CURATORS

ICE IS ONLY A TEMPORARY CONDITION. Our planet's frozen wonders are cracking, splitting and falling into the sea. It's called calving and for a moment it feels like it might be a process of addition, as more and more chunks of glaciers are set free. But it is only subtraction and then more subtraction as the ice at the poles slips away from us. Feeling frozen and yet tearful is the new contradiction.

Art shifts, transforms, finds its way through blockages and dislocations through space and time. Art has a particular talent for freezing, unfreezing, pausing, stopping, rewinding or fast-forwarding time.

Marcel Duchamp's cracked Large Glass reads like a piece of ice that traps a drawing in space and time. A photograph is a pause, one way to suspend time and see David Hammons selling snowballs on the sidewalk in Cooper Square, New York City. Or a way to stop and see what Andy Goldsworthy built out of icicles, temporarily, in Cumbria England.

Art wants to let us experience what most of us haven't experienced. Envision Olafur Eliasson's huge pieces of a glacier taking their time as they shrink, run off and evaporate in the Place du Pantheon, Paris. Or think of Yoko Ono's instructions, which can be carried out at any time in multiple ways. "Use things until they melt," she writes.

Kafka writes about the frozen sea within us. What was there before it froze? What gets revealed now?

—EVA MANTELL

ICE REMINDS ME OF SUSPENDED EXPRESSION. Things I want to say but repress or projects that I am too busy to realize can rattle around in my mind and lead to frustration or anger. Being in my studio helps me balance out my emotions. What I have found talking to non-artists is that art-making can sometimes have an opposite un-balancing effect because of self-consciousness or performance anxiety. Anxiety can cause us to freeze inside, or to feel numb.

But anyone can experiment with freezing an object or text in ice. Often the visual transformation is amazing. I encourage you to participate in this project whether you feel that you have talent or not. Making an ice page is a very direct process. If your page or photograph doesn't turn out, you can make another one. Let the pages melt; this transient quality is part of this project's concept.

I can't wait to see what happens with this idea in other people's hands.

—SARAH STENGLE



Eva Mantell © 2016



Sarah Stengle © 2016

Thank you so much for your participation. We look forward to seeing what you will contribute.