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Museum of Art

**NATURAL
HISTORY
MUSEUM**
LOS ANGELES COUNTY



**USC Fisher Museum of Art and NHMLA to Showcase 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 18, 2018

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LOS ANGELES (July 24, 2018) — USC Fisher Museum of Art proudly announces a timely exhibition that depicts how humans are directly and indirectly impacting the planet. *Earth Works: Mapping the Anthropocene* is presented by USC Fisher Museum of Art in collaboration with the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHMLA). The exhibition features 24 works by Justin Brice Guariglia, including one work—the 11 feet by 16 feet *Jakobshavn I* depicting one of Greenland's fastest melting glaciers—to be displayed across the street at NHMLA. *Earth Works*, traveling from the Norton Museum of Art in West Palm Beach, FL, where it debuted and was curated by Tim B. Wride, that museum's William and Sarah Ross Soter Curator of Photography, opens on September 18, 2018 and runs through December 8, 2018.

Justin Brice Guariglia is a transdisciplinary artist, who in 2015 and 2016, flew seven times with NASA as part of Operation Ice Bridge, 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 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.

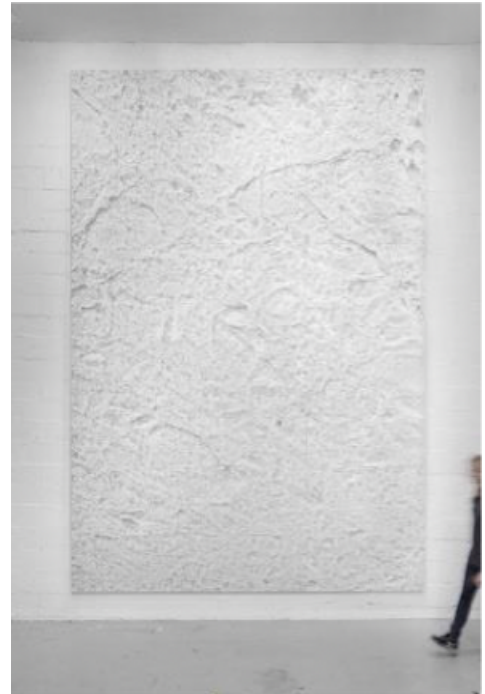
"Justin's works mapping man's impact on the planet range far beyond making images that are formally and aesthetically compelling. His use of materials in the final product—the object that carries the image—is what truly sets the work apart from his contemporaries," said Wride. "Nominally a photographer, 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."

"Justin Brice Guariglia's *Earth Works: Mapping the Anthropocene* explores the intersection of science, nature, and human culture. The interplay of those three areas is also what drives our work at the Natural History Museum, and we are constantly looking for new lenses with which to see it," said Dr. Lori Bettison-Varga, President and Director of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. "We're therefore honored to partner with our neighbor, USC Fisher Museum of Art, for this special presentation of Justin's work, which couldn't be more relevant at this point in time."

Dr. Selma Holo, Director of the USC Fisher Museum of Art hailed this exhibition as "a stunning example of art that is both beautiful and satisfying on the surface—for its own sake, while at the same time being transformative at the level of conscience. Looking hard at Guariglia's images, one is affected by both the sublimity of nature and the awareness of the wreckage that man has wrought upon it. Perhaps the impact of this exhibition will help us re-calculate the meaning of the Anthropocene and shift the balance a little toward the good."



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.

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 USC Fisher Museum of Art: The USC Fisher Museum of Art - established in 1939- is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. It functions as a center for intellectual inquiry and aesthetic enjoyment in support of USC's goals of research, teaching, artistic creation, and service to society. The Fisher Museum bears special responsibility to link the art in its permanent collections and the art it presents in its temporary exhibitions to all of USC's present and future audiences: to its students, faculty, staff, alumni, and surrounding communities. Fisher Museum offers an array of programming, including lectures, artists' talks, yoga, film screenings, concerts, and poetry readings to enhance and support its exhibitions. Fisher Museum is also proud to be home and working laboratory for the USC International Museum Institute, a think-tank for museum professionals and a division of the USC College.

Admission is free.

About NHMLA: The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County was the first dedicated museum building in Los Angeles, opening its doors in 1913. It has since amassed one of the world's most extensive and valuable collections of natural and cultural history—more than 35 million objects. Using these collections for groundbreaking scientific and historic research, the museum also incorporates them into on- and offsite nature and culture exploration in L.A. neighborhoods, and a slate of community science programs—creating a new natural history museum experience that explores the past, but increasingly addresses the present and the future. Immersive visitor experiences, including *Age of Mammals* and the Dinosaur Hall, visitors are awed by extraordinary specimens but can also explore these specimens' stories (how scientists discover, collect, and research them). In *Becoming L.A.*, the Nature Lab and Nature Gardens, science, history, today's nature, and culture come to life, connecting visitors and which connect people to both the L.A. community and the world.

Go Metro! Both USC Fisher Museum of Art and NHMLA are located just a few steps away from Metro Expo Line's Expo Park/USC station! For current fares and times, go to www.metro.net/expo.

Image Credits:

Image #1: Justin Brice Guariglia, *ÖBÜR I*, 2011, fabricated 2015, acrylic, gesso, linen, aluminum panel, 80" x 60" x 0.8". Image courtesy of the artist. © 2018

Image #2: Justin Brice Guariglia, *JAKOBHAVN I*, 2015, fabricated 2016, acrylic, polystyrene, 192" x 133" x 1.75". Image courtesy of the artist. © 2018