



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OLAF OTTO BECKER ILULISSAT

May 17 – July 7, 2018

Opening Reception:
Thursday, May 17, 2018
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

ClampArt is pleased to announce “Olaf Otto Becker: Ilulissat”—the artist’s first solo show with the gallery. The exhibition coincides with the artist’s new monograph *Ilulissat: Sculptures of Change—Greenland, 2003-2017* (Hatje Cantz, Hardcover, 9.8 x 11.2 x 0.5 inches, \$55).

For fourteen summers, German photographer Olaf Otto Becker has been traveling to Ilulissat, a coastal town in western Greenland known for the Ilulissat Icefjord and the massive icebergs in Disko Bay. Becker has built a formidable name for himself in the art world documenting majestic icebergs floating in arctic waters along with sublime landscapes now crossed by stunning rivers of melting polar ice.



Traveling alone on a small, open boat, the artist glides through glacial depths photographing enormous icebergs which he compares to “sculptures of change” as they drift and slowly melt in the still waters. Of course, over the relatively short period of time the artist has been spending his Julys in the far north, he has been witness to undeniable signs of climate change. During the winters, the ocean often no longer freezes over, and in the summers the temperature can now routinely surpass 70 degrees Fahrenheit.

Like floating giants, the enormous icebergs tower dramatically above the water, their unique shapes pristinely reflected in the glassy surface below. But, in their peaceful sublimity there is also a sense of transience. The artist writes: “For me, icebergs are wonderful temporal sculptures created of their own accord, yet at the same time they are also natural monuments, reminders of the continuing process of climate change, which we humans are now influencing to a great extent for the first time in the history of our planet.”

Elsewhere Becker explains: “In the short summer in Greenland, the sun turns its circles in the sky without ever touching the horizon. . . [Now the] ice sheet is melting. Regularly, like the ticking of a clock, huge, new icebergs from the edges of the [Sermeq Kujalleq] glacier plunge into the ocean each day with a thunderous boom and roar. Our planet breathes.”

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Exhibited as exquisitely printed, large-scale photographs, Becker's depictions of icebergs quietly reflect these imposing forms as they rest suspended in mysterious, foggy waters. Once so dense with ice the artist's boat would have to wait long periods of time to traverse the surface of the bay, now the ocean is nearly free of any obstruction.



Olaf Otto Becker was born in Lübeck-Travemünde, Germany, in 1959. After studying communication design with an emphasis on photography in Augsburg, he attended the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in München focusing on philosophy. His first publication, *Under the Nordic Light* (Schaden, 2005) was nominated for the renowned Recontres D'Arles Book award. *Broken Line* (Hatje Cantz, 2007) was awarded 2008 German Photo Book Prize. The same year he was nominated for the Prix Pictet "Water"—the global award in photography and sustainability—and again in 2012 for Prix Pictet "Power." His work has been exhibited in Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, and the United States. *Ilulissat: Sculptures of Change—Greenland, 2003-2017* (Hatje Cantz, 2018) is the artist's fifth book.

For more information and images please contact Raechel McCarthy, Director, or see www.clampart.com.

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Image one: © Olaf Otto Becker, "Ilulissat 30, 07/2015," 2015, Archival pigment print.

Image two: © Olaf Otto Becker, "Ilulissat 52, 07/2015," 2015, Archival pigment print.