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Photo Essay: Glacial Waters

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Glacial Waters no. 9



Glacial Waters no. 1



Glacial Waters no. 14

Glacial Waters

PHOTO ESSAY

Ivana George

Since 2008, I have become increasingly interested in the environmental, social and economic impacts of climate change and have wanted to produce a body of work that explores this subject. To prepare for that, I researched what other artists and scientists had already produced around this topic. What I found was that several artists and scientists had created a good many documentary-style images of glaciers, icebergs, and changing landscapes. Instead, my aim is to produce artwork that uses visual metaphor to provoke viewers to explore these issues, and to make my work visually unique. When I

received an invitation to travel to the Peruvian Andes with Dr. Bryan Mark and his research team from the Byrd Polar Research Center of the Ohio State University as they researched how climate change is affecting the high-mountain glaciers and water resources,

I jumped at the chance. I experimented with different approaches to convey the environmental, social, and economic impacts of climate change upon water resource availability. Ultimately, I settled upon using water as a lens to encapsulate, reflect, and distort the images.

The use of the water globe in these images is meant to convey a visual association to the round form of mother earth. By using this glass form throughout the project, I hope to conjure the notion of the fragility of the planetary ecosystem in which all living beings play a role. While the subject of each image is different, they are connected in this project, both by form and theme.

From an aesthetic perspective, I wanted to show the majesty of the glacier-capped mountains, but also the streams of melt water emanating from these glaciers. I wanted to demonstrate the subsistence agricultural activities in the arid valleys below the glaciers, to implant in viewers' minds the question: what will happen to the people who live there when the glaciers are fully melted? I also wanted to show the research activities of the scientists in gathering data, to show that more understanding is needed if countries such as Peru (also China and India) that rely on glacial melt water during their dry seasons are to adapt to climate



change.

Ivana George is Associate Professor in the Department of Art.



Sunset at Camp 7





Glacial Waters no. 7



Glacial Waters no. 12



Glacial Waters no. 2



Glacial Waters no. 13