

CRISTIN TIERNEY



## Imagination and Desire in a Northern Landscape: An Artistic Plea for the Arctic

Janet Biggs' digital exhibit, 'Imagination and Desire in a Northern Landscape', showcases the Arctic's vulnerability and the devastating effects of climate change on polar bears. Emphasizing individual actions and technology, the exhibit encourages collective efforts for a sustainable future.

María Alejandra Trujillo - 13 Feb 2024 04:38 EST



*Imagination and Desire in a Northern Landscape: An Artistic Plea for the Arctic*

A haunting digital exhibit, 'Imagination and Desire in a Northern Landscape', by Janet Biggs, draws attention to the fragile Arctic ecosystem and the devastating consequences of human-induced climate change. The exhibition, which opened on February 13, 2024,

# C R I S T I N T I E R N E Y

features three thought-provoking videos that showcase the vulnerability of the Arctic and its inhabitants, particularly the polar bears.

## A Fragile Ecosystem on the Brink

The Arctic is a region of breathtaking beauty and home to unique species, such as the polar bear, which are now struggling to survive due to the rapid warming of their icy habitats. According to recent studies, the Arctic is warming three times faster than the global average, causing sea ice to melt at an alarming rate. This loss of sea ice not only threatens the survival of polar bears but also has far-reaching implications for the entire planet.

Polar bears rely heavily on sea ice as a platform for hunting, mating, and traveling. As the ice disappears, these majestic creatures are forced to adapt to new conditions, putting them at risk of maladaptation. Genetic forecasting predicts that polar bears could face a high risk of extinction due to their inability to adapt to the warming temperatures and sea ice loss.

## Human Actions and Their Lasting Impact

Biggs' exhibit serves as a stark reminder of the impact of human actions on the environment. The artist, who has been fascinated with the Arctic since childhood, uses footage from her trips to Svalbard to create an abstract piece of video art that highlights the climate crisis.

The exhibition's centerpiece is a poignant video installation that juxtaposes the vast, icy landscapes of the Arctic with the devastating effects of human existence. The video, which features a polar bear struggling to find food on a melting ice floe, is a poignant representation of the consequences of human-induced warming.

## The Power of Individual Actions

While the situation may seem dire, Biggs' exhibit emphasizes the importance of individual actions in addressing global warming. By making educated decisions and taking collective action, we can help protect the Arctic and its inhabitants for future generations.

The exhibition also highlights the role of technology in understanding and addressing the climate crisis. Biggs uses digital media to create a sense of urgency and to provoke thought about the long-term impact of human actions on the planet.

As we continue to grapple with the consequences of climate change, exhibits like 'Imagination and Desire in a Northern Landscape' serve as a powerful reminder of the importance of taking action to protect our fragile ecosystems. By working together and making informed decisions, we can help ensure a sustainable future for all.

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In the words of Janet Biggs, "The Arctic is a symbol of the delicate balance of our planet, and its vulnerability to human actions is a call to action for all of us."