

BLISS

MAGAZINE



ZARIA FORMAN

This month www.booooooom.com featured Zaria Forman's large-scale pastel drawings, and everyone (including us) was mesmerized by her crashing waves and luminescent ripples, remote oceans, and icy terrains. Forman travels around the globe to document Earth's shifting landscapes and the effects of progressive climate change.

"In August 2012, I led an Arctic expedition up the northwest coast of Greenland called 'Chasing the Light,'" she explained. "It was the second expedition, the mission of which was to create art inspired by this dramatic geography. The first, in 1869, was led by the American painter William Bradford. My mother, Rena Bass Forman, had conceived the idea for the voyage but did not live to see it through. During the months of her illness her dedication to the expedition never wavered, and I promised to carry out her final journey. Documenting climate change, the work addresses the concept of saying goodbye on scales both global and personal. In Greenland, I scattered my mother's ashes amidst the melting ice."

Continuing to address climate change in her work, Forman traveled to the Maldives, which is the lowest-lying country in the world and is in serious danger of rising sea levels. "The Maldives 2013: Continuing the story of polar melt, which is the main cause of rising seas, I followed the

melt-water from the Arctic to the equator," she says. "I spent September 2013 in the Maldives, the lowest and flattest country in the world, collecting material and inspiration to create a body of work celebrating and representing a nation that could be entirely underwater within this century. Two award-winning artists who participated in the Greenland expedition, Chasing The Light, joined me in this venture: painter Lisa Lebofsky, and director, filmmaker, and actress Drew Denny.

"During our month on the islands, we shared the concept of our project with children on the islands, inviting them to document their homeland as it transforms throughout their lives. The children can use their creativity to continue spreading awareness while inwardly processing the ecological transformations surrounding them. I hope my drawings will raise awareness and invite viewers to share the urgency of the Maldivians' predicament in a productive and hopeful way. I believe art can facilitate a deeper understanding of crises, helping us find meaning and optimism amidst shifting landscapes."

Partial proceeds of Forman's artwork go to 350.org, which is an international climate change campaign that works in over 180 countries around the world. To check out more of Zaria Forman's art, go to www.zariaforman.com.

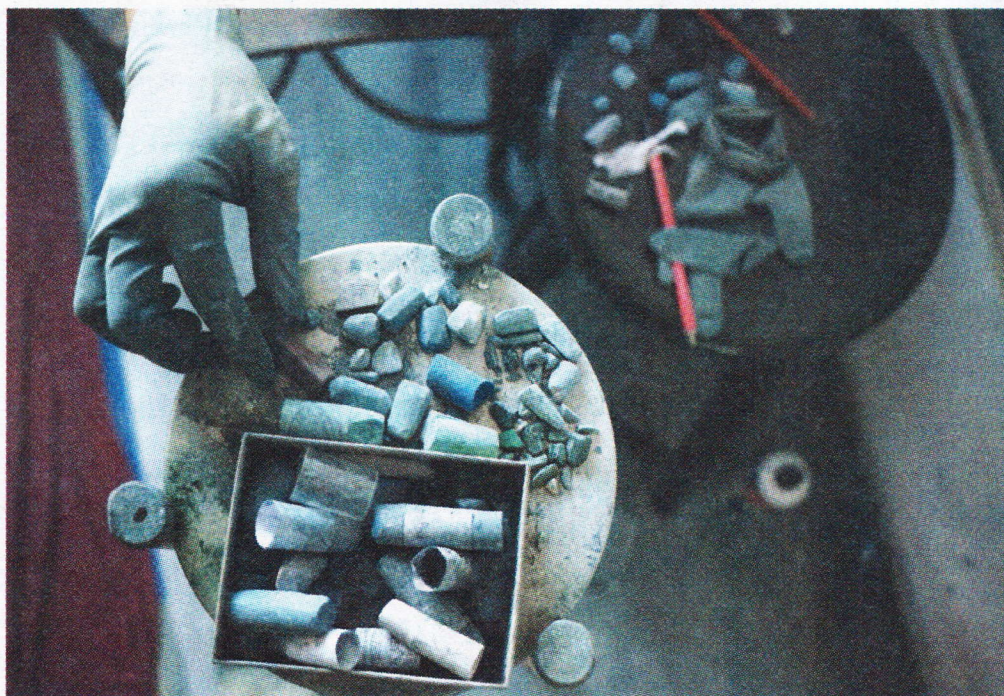


Photo: Francois Lebeau





Photo: Francois Lebeau :: Maldives #10, 45"x75", Soft Pastel on Paper, 2014

