

For immediate release

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MELTDOWN: Visualizing Climate Change premieres in the UK at the Horniman Museum and Gardens this winter

The Horniman Museum and Gardens in south London hosts the UK premiere of *MELTDOWN: Visualizing Climate Change* by Project Pressure.

Unlike wildfires and flooding, glaciers are not part of the weather system and when looking at glacier mass loss over time, one can see the result of global heating. This makes glaciers key indicators of the climate crisis. Since 2008 the climate change charity Project Pressure has been commissioning world-renowned artists to conduct expeditions to document changes to the world's vanishing glaciers, the consequences for billions of people, and efforts made to limit melting.

These works are bought together as *MELTDOWN* and can be seen on display at the Horniman from 23 November 2019 to 12 January 2020.

The exhibition emphasises the importance of glaciers in a scientific, illustrative and dramatic way. Works featured range in scale from the planetary level to microscopic biological impact, with artistic interpretations giving visitors unique insights into the world's cryosphere, its fragile ecosystem and our changing global climate.

MELTDOWN features work from every relevant continent and leads the viewer on a journey in three chapters - *The Importance of Glaciers*, *Current Issues* and *Meltdown Consequences*. The show is created to inspire as well as activate visitors, and to incite real behavioural change.

The series of striking art works includes artist Peter Funch's use of vintage postcards as a model for his images of American glaciers to capture the effects of glacial recession; Norfolk + Thymann's image of part of the Rhône glacier covered in geo-thermal cloth to limit melting; Richard Mosse's photograph of the ice cave under the Vatnajökull glacier in Iceland; and Noémie Goudal's large-scale photographic installation mirroring the shifting glacial landscape, printed on biodegradable paper.

Nick Merriman, Chief Executive of the Horniman says: 'We are honoured to host the UK premiere of this important exhibition. The Horniman has long been concerned with environmental issues and the impact of human activity on our world and in July 2019 we declared an ecological and climate emergency, pledging to place carbon reduction and environmental issues at the heart of our work.'

More

As the only museum in London that combines the human and the natural world we are constantly looking to engage and inform our audiences about the environmental issues that affect us all. We hope that through this superb series of powerful and thought-provoking art works visitors will be reminded of the beauty and vulnerability of our planet and be empowered to take action to protect its future.'

MELTDOWN forms part of a wider programme at the Horniman to increase sustainability, improve awareness of environmental issues and encourage everyone to reduce their environmental impact. Further information, including a Green Visitor guide, can be found at www.horniman.ac.uk.

MELTDOWN can be seen at the Horniman from 23 November 2019 to 12 January 2020. Entry to the Horniman and to see *MELTDOWN* is free.

Ends

Please credit the attached picture:

The Lewis Glacier, Mt Kenya, 1963 (A) – (c) Simon Norfolk / Courtesy of Project Pressure

For hi res images contact the Horniman Press Office: 020 8291 8166/press@horniman.ac.uk

Notes to Editors:

- **Project Pressure** was founded in 2008 by Klaus Thymann. To find out more about Project Pressure visit www.project-pressure.org / [@ProjectPressure](https://twitter.com/ProjectPressure).
- **MELTDOWN** is curated by Lina Aastrup and features work from the artists Corey Arnold, Michael Benson, Adam Broomberg & Oliver Chanarin, Edward Burtynsky, Scott Conarroe, Peter Funch, Noémie Goudal, Adam Hinton, Richard Mosse, Simon Norfolk, Norfolk + Thymann, Christopher Parsons, Toby Smith and Klaus Thymann.
- On 29 July 2019 the **Horniman Museum and Gardens declared an ecological and climate emergency**, pledging to place carbon reduction and environmental issues at the heart of its work. The declaration is both a consolidation of existing work and a commitment to renewed ambitions to reduce the Horniman's environmental and pollution footprint, increase biodiversity, and inspire others to do so. Find out more about the Horniman's specific commitments as part of the declaration at horniman.ac.uk.
- **The Horniman Museum and Gardens** opened in 1901 as a gift to the people in perpetuity from tea trader and philanthropist Frederick John Horniman, to 'bring the world to Forest Hill'. Today the Horniman has a collection of 350,000 objects, specimens and artefacts from around the world. Its galleries include natural history, music and an acclaimed aquarium. A new World Gallery of anthropology opened in June 2018 and a new arts space, The Studio, opened in October 2018. Indoor exhibits link to the award-winning display gardens – from medicinal and dye gardens to an interactive sound garden, Butterfly House and an animal walk – set among 16 acres of beautiful, green space offering spectacular views across London. horniman.ac.uk
- The Horniman Museum and Gardens is core-funded by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and since 1990 has been governed by an independent charitable trust, registered charity no. 802725. The Horniman Museum and Gardens also receives funding from Arts Council England as one of its National Portfolio Organisations.
- **Opening times and admission.** The Horniman Museum is open daily 10am-5.30pm, except 24 - 26 December, when it is closed. The Gardens open at 7.15am Monday to Saturday and 8am on Sunday and Bank Holidays, and close at sunset. Entry to the Museum and Gardens is free but charges apply for the Aquarium, Butterfly House and some special exhibitions and events. Horniman Members and Benefactors go free – horniman.ac.uk/members.
- **Access.** The Museum and the Gardens are both wheelchair and pushchair friendly with accessible toilets. Limited on-site parking is available for Blue Badge holders. horniman.ac.uk/visit/disability-and-access.
- **Travel.** The Horniman is situated at 100 London Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 3PQ on the South Circular Road (A205). It can be reached easily by train to Forest Hill station (London Overground/Southern, travel time approx. 15-20 minutes from east/central London or East Croydon) and by local buses (176, 185, 197, 356, P4).