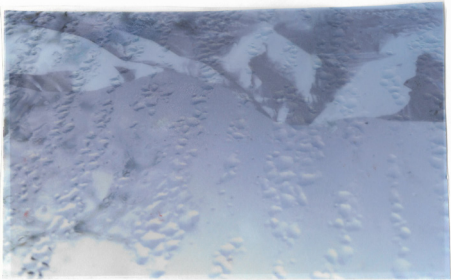


GLACIOLOGY
GLOSSARY

An A to Z

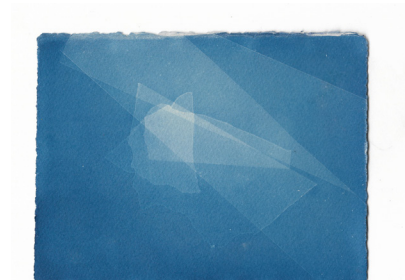
ABLATION

Melting, erosion and evaporation which reduces the area of the ice.



BLUE ICE

Occurs when water molecules reflect blue wavelengths of light.



CRYOSPHERE

The perennially frozen regions of the planet, including land-ice, sea-ice, permanent snow cover and permafrost.



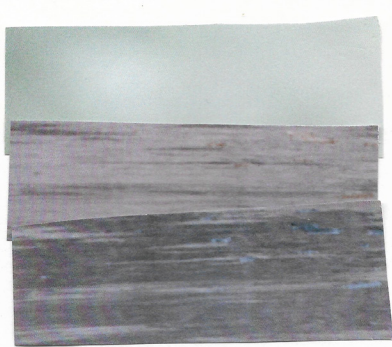
DE NIVE
SEXANGULA

German astronomer Johannes Kepler's 1611 essay '*On the Six-Cornered Snowflake*' is considered to be the first work that analyzes and describes the structure of snow crystals.



EUSTACY

Fluctuations in worldwide sea levels.



FIFTY

The number of words the Inuit people of Baffin Island are believed to have for snow, as claimed by anthropologist Franz Boas in his 1911 publication '*Handbook of American Indian Languages*'.



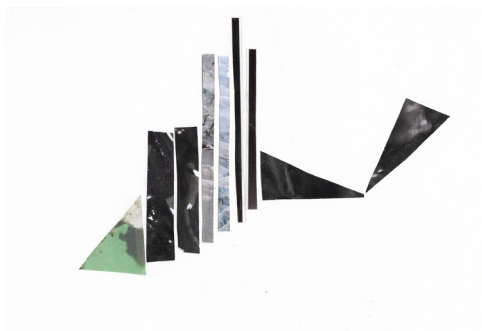
GENDARMES

Ice towers that mark the entrance to glacial caves. French in origin, the term originates from '*gens d'armes*' (men of arms) as they are seen to resemble the gendarmerie police.



HOLOCENE

The current geological epoch.



ICE SIZZLE

Distinctive aural phenomenon caused by trapped gasses beneath the surface of glaciers, which sounds like carbonated soda.



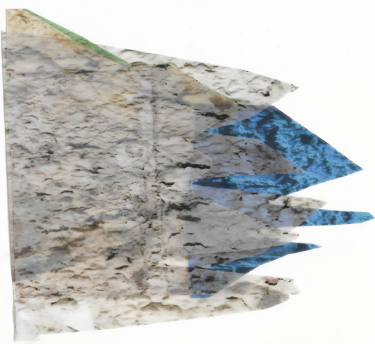
JÖKULHLAUP

(Pronounced "*Yo-kul-bloip*.")
A type of glacial outburst flood. It is an Icelandic term that has been adopted in glaciological terminology in many languages.



KATABATIC WIND

A wind that flows from a glacier, caused by air cooled by the ice becoming heavier than surrounding air, then draining down-valley.



LENTICULAR

A thick-in-the-middle, thin-at-the-edges geologic deposit in which the surfaces converge together.



MOULIN

A vertical shaft within a glacier which water enters from the surface. The term is derived from the French word for mill. Water flowing down moulins often makes load roaring sounds.



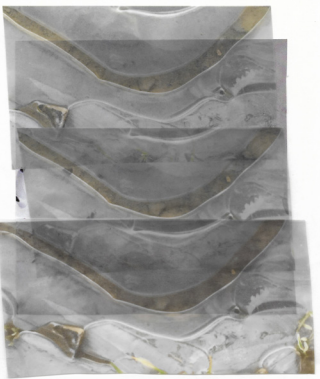
NUNATAK

A Greenlandic word for mountains or lands which protrude through the ice.



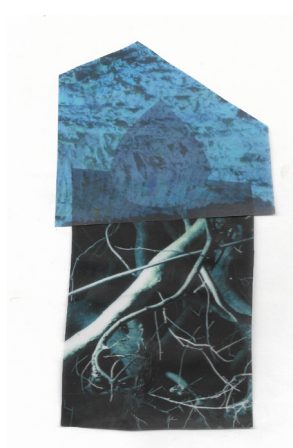
OGIVES

A series of ice waves or bands of lighter and darker material formed below ice falls in some glaciers.



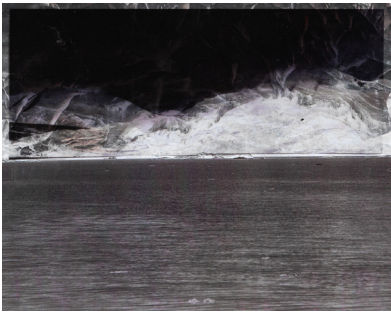
PRESERVATION

Ice is earth's most ancient form of preservation; it's still being used today to safeguard the contents of Svalbard's Global Seed Vault.



QUIESCENT PHASE

The period in which a surging glacier is slow-moving or stagnant, prior to collapse.



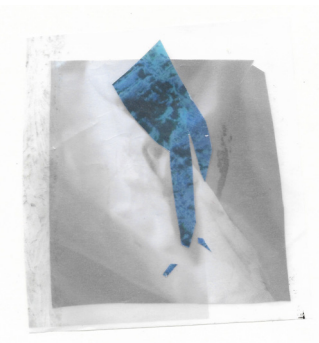
RETREAT

A decrease in the length of a glacier compared to a previous point in time.



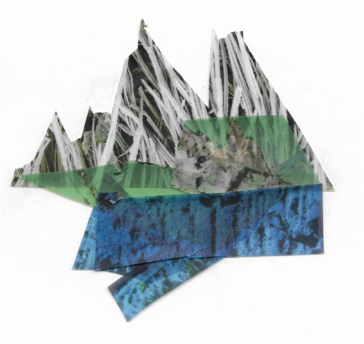
SÉRAC

A jagged pinnacle or tower of ice located on the surface of a glacier, formed as water flows down an icefall or by the intersection of crevasses.



TERRESTRIAL

Land above sea level.



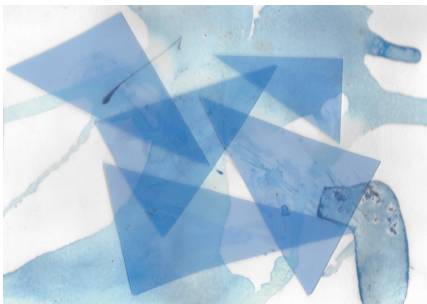
U-SHAPED VALLEY

These valleys are formed when a glacier travels across and down a slope, carving the valley by the action of scouring.



VERGLAS

A thin coating of ice or frozen rain on an exposed surface.



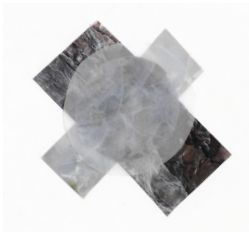
WHITE-OUT

A weather condition in which the horizon cannot be identified. White snow blends everywhere. All you see is white.



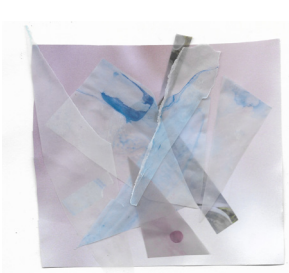
X-RAY DIFFRACTION
(XRD)

XRD is used to differentiate minerals in ice cores. The oldest ice core on record dates back 2.7 million years.



YOWLING

Piercing sounds emitted from sea and river ice as it expands and contracts are referred to as 'ice yawling'. Though the pitch and volume varies, it is often likened to whale calls.



ZONE OF WASTAGE

The area or areas on a glacier where there is a net loss of snow and ice, most often due to global warming.



GLACIOLOGY
(noun)

The study of ice and its effect on the landscape, especially the study of glaciers.

*Origin
Late 19th century:
from Latin glaciers 'ice' + -logy.*