

***Fokion Zissiadis: “Icebergs from Genesis to Extinction” | Photography Exhibition***

***October 17 to November 17, 2019 | The Benaki Museum / PIREOS 138 – Athens, Greece***

A journey to Greenland’s natural breathtaking beauty. A wayfaring to explore the Arctic and the greatness of the ever-floating icebergs, the most spectacular phenomenon of the Polar region. An adventurous reconnaissance masterfully captured that takes precedence at the photography exhibition of [Fokion Zissiadis’ “Icebergs from Genesis to Extinction”](#), at the Benaki Museum from 17th October till 17th November 2019, curated by Stavros Kavalaris, under the auspices of the Embassy of Denmark in Athens.

The idea for this journey was born in Iceland, in the vestibule of the Arctic Circle, 600 km from Greenland, as a result of his ongoing strong relationship with the Arctic region that had led to the publishing of the photo art book “Iceland” (Publisher [teNeues](#)).

It has been since 2016 that he explores Greenland. He has visited it thus far in four different quests, with sojourns in *Ilulisat -Nuuk- Tasiilaq -Teniteqilaq* in 2016, *Kangerlussuaq - Ilulisat - Qaanaq - Nuuk* in 2017, *Ittoqqortoormiit - Jameson Land* in 2018 and *Ittoqqortoormiit - Kap Hoeg* in 2019, in four various seasons (August, March, April, June). Fokion Zissiadis has spent 100 days in diversified extremities of subzero temperatures, dropping in some occasions below -30 degrees Celsius, while travelling 600km, in rugged, inaccessible locations with the assistance of inuit hunters, together with Landmark Dui, his loyal and experienced Icelandic guide who accompanies Fokion Zissiadis in every arctic expedition, whilst the assistance of dogs and use of sledge, helicopters, snowmobiles, and boats were at hand. In this daring endeavor, spiritual power and adequate physical stamina illustrate the photographer’s iron discipline on his focused target: to create through his photographic compositions the display of a landscape that seems extra-terrestrial, creating a strong sense of the human insignificance when compared with the grandeur and majesty of Nature.

Icebergs constitute the ritual archetype of a continuous transformation, as they were originally created in a slow metamorphosis from snowflake to heavily compacted ice during a period predating modern history several hundred thousand years ago – in some cases more than 400.000 years ago. These stunning ice floating sculptures in progress are the result of the eternal slide of the Greenlandic glaciers. As the exhibitions’ curator, Stavros Kavalaris indicates, *their unforeseen and lonely journey through the frozen waters highlights their dual nature - above*

*and below sea level, capturing not only the charismatic potential of a prendre l'eau, but also the importance of their regulating role on the climate.*

With this dual property, water is the generating force of the icebergs in an obvious and, at the same time, mystical way. Given that about 90% of their mass is below the sea surface, a compact bottom is formed, in a constant reaction with stagnation, and their pinnacle is split between a crystalline fragility and the imposing presence of a marble structure.

This formidable sight is exactly what Fokion Zissiadis captures with his lens, with his special glance, revealing, through the backdrop of the Frozen North Ocean, the inbuilt structure and the magnificence of the icebergs. His photographs add to the magic of a landscape dominated by their perpetual wandering, as well as their buoyancy, according to Archimedes' principle.

The photographer's perseverance, consistency and meticulousness underlined his targeted effort to be designated as a raconteur, by capturing the whole image and the quintessence of the destination, with an unconventional approach so as the viewer to travel mentally there. And this is his passion in which the photographer invests. For Fokion Zissiadis, a senior architect and a worldly-wise aesthete, every journey is an expedition, an evolutionary process with a mature look to the world, a physical and mental exploration with honesty, humanity, and modesty.

Opening on 16th of October, Fokion Zissiadis' photo exhibition "Icebergs: From Genesis to Extinction" will be hosted at the Benaki Museum, 138 Pireos str. in Athens, for the period of 17 October - 17 November, 2019. Zissiadis body of work on the Icebergs of Greenland - Denmark, will be exhibited as a very vivid perspective of large-scale pictures (3m. length) along with sound effects, featuring the sounds of Arctica composed by Lolipop Studios of Thanassis Zlatanous.

All images of the exhibition were printed at the giclee fine art lab, Colour Consulting Group of Granis Bros in Thessaloniki, using the Optiplex technique and all indoor and outdoor signage was produced at Whale Graphics of Angela Athanasiou.

The photographic gear of Fokion Zissiadis is consisted primarily by the Phase One camera system for landscapes, Cannon camera system for wildlife and Olympus camera system for the underwater photography.

EXHIBITION TITLE: Fokion Zissiadis: Icebergs from Genesis to Extinction

CURATOR: Stavros Kavalaris



WHERE: The Benaki Museum/Pireos 138 - Athens, Greece

WHEN: Opening: October 16, 2019

Duration: October 17 to November 17, 2019

For more information, you can visit the website of [Fokion Zissiadis](#) and [The Benaki Museum](#).

For Press inquiries please contact:

Natalia Katifori | Communication Officer | [natalia@opusltd.com](mailto:natalia@opusltd.com) | m. +30 6972-345289 t. +30 2103635660

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