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--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE --

***Nordic Changes: Works by Diane Burko***  
**On view at the American Swedish Historical Museum**  
**September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019 thru January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Philadelphia, PA:** ASHM is delighted to present *Nordic Changes*, an exhibition of paintings and photographs by the internationally-renowned artist, Diane Burko and guest curated by Dr. Kirsten Jensen. The **opening event on Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>** will feature gallery talks by Ms. Burko and Dr. Jensen, as well as a panel discussion with the artist, along with local experts including Christine Knapp, Director of Sustainability for the City of Philadelphia, Erik Johanson Director of Innovation for Septa, and Billy Fleming, former Wilks Family Director McHarg Center and former White House Domestic Policy Councilor for Urban Policy Development, to discuss the impacts of climate change in the Philadelphia area. Special guest Ambassador Bergdís Ellertsdóttir of Iceland will also be in attendance.

The Philadelphia- and Bucks County-based artist is a world traveler, and this exhibition highlights a body of work she produced following expeditions made over the past two decades to the Nordic Arctic in Greenland, Iceland, and Svalbard. Since her first visit to Iceland in 2002, Burko has focused her attention on environmental issues, blending science with beauty to create art that is a vessel for eco-activism. Burko's pieces in the exhibition are visual investigations, revealing the dramatic ways in which the Arctic is being transformed due to the effects of climate change.

*Nordic Changes* offers visitors a capsule survey of Burko's many expeditions to the Arctic, beginning with her Icelandic landscapes. Among these are *Kverkfjoll before Trip* and two remarkable views of the Godafoss waterfall, which reveal the sublime qualities of the landscape and cause us to reflect upon how it has changed over time. Four large-scale photographs in the exhibition were inspired by expeditions to Svalbard and a visit to Ny-Alesund with scientists from the Norwegian Polar Institute; the striking scenery in the diptych *Raudfjord Snow* could be lunar but for the pale turquoise shards of ice dotting the snow. The most recent paintings in the exhibition reflect Burko's last trip to the Arctic in 2016, where she explored glacial melt at Greenland's Ilulissat and Eqi Sermia glaciers, the astonishing depletion of which is referenced in *Arctic Melting, July 2016 (after NASA)*.

The fourteen works in *Nordic Changes* highlight the Arctic's geological phenomena and its austere natural beauty, while at the same time forcing us to pause and reflect upon how quickly they are disappearing before our eyes. You will not want to miss it.

**Diane Burko** has an MFA from the University of Pennsylvania, and has taught at a number of leading institutions in the greater Philadelphia region, including Princeton University, the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, and the University of the Arts. She has had more than 40 solo exhibitions through the country, and has been awarded numerous grants and fellowships, including two from the National Endowment for the Arts, and two Pennsylvania Arts Council Awards. Burko is represented in major museum collections including the Delaware Art Museum, the Hood Museum of Art, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Tucson Museum of Art, the Woodmere Art Museum, the Michener Art Museum, and the Zimmerli Art Museum.

Please contact ASHM at 215-389-1776, [crossy@americanswedish.org](mailto:crossy@americanswedish.org) for more information or visit [www.americanswedish.org](http://www.americanswedish.org). The American Swedish Historical Museum is located in scenic FDR Park at 1900 Pattison Avenue in South Philadelphia near the Sports Complex. The museum has free parking, and the Broad Street Line's NRG Station and SEPTA's Route 17 are within walking distance.



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[02]



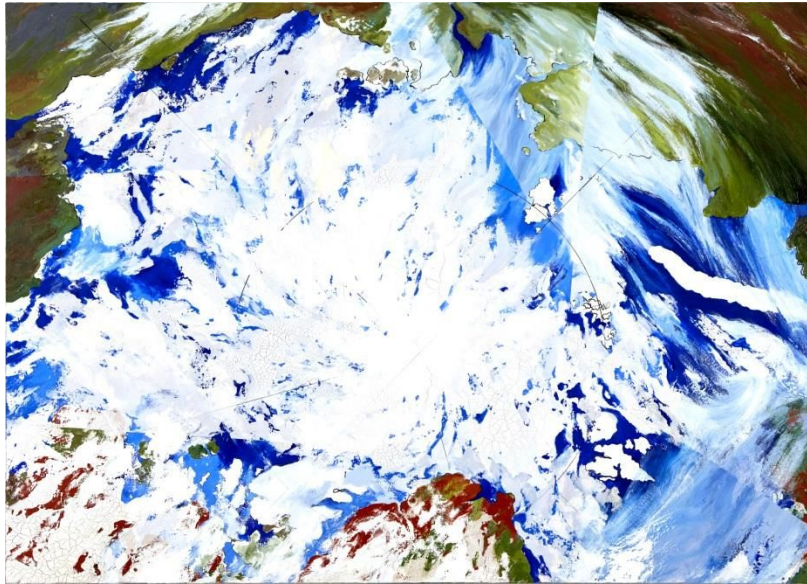
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## Selected Pieces:

[01] *Kverkfjoll Before Trip*, 2002, oil on canvas, 50"x81"

[02] *Godafoss #3*, 2003, oil on canvas, 60"x84"

[03] *Over Askjar in July #4*, 2004, oil on canvas, 42"x72"

[04/05] *Raudjfiord Snow 1, 2 (Diptych)*, 2014, archival pigment print, 30"x30"

[06] *On the Crevasse*, 2014, archival pigment print, 60"x40"

[07] *Arctic Melting, July 2016 (After NASA)*, 2016, oil and mixed media on canvas, 60"x84"

## Related Programs:

### Opening Reception

Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 1:30pm

Join ASHM for the opening of *Nordic Changes: Works by Diane Burko*. At 2:00pm, Diane will join a panel discussion with local experts Christine Knapp, Director of Sustainability for the City of Philadelphia, Erik Johanson Director of Innovation for Septa, and Billy Fleming, former Wilks Family Director McHarg Center and former White House Domestic Policy Councilor for Urban Policy Development, to discuss the impacts of climate change in the Philadelphia area. Diane and guest curator, Dr. Kirsten Jensen, will lead a walk-through of the gallery between 3:30 and 4:30. Special guest Ambassador Bergdís Ellertsdóttir of Iceland will also be in attendance. This event is free with museum admission; refreshments available all afternoon.

**Upcycled Craft Fair**

Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 12:00-5:00pm

Learn about creative reuse at this special museum festival! Local artists and craft vendors will show how they have taken “reduce, reuse, and recycle” to the next level. While their wares will be available for purchase, we also encourage visitors to think about how they can re-use their own unwanted objects instead of disposing of them.

**A Date with Paint**

Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> and Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00pm

Draw inspiration from *Nordic Changes* and paint your own Arctic scene! Spend a cozy night at the museum with friends or your partner before the busy holiday rush at this exclusive date-night experience. Our instructor will walk you through painting your very own Nordic scene as you enjoy a sample flight of Scandinavian chocolate! This event is BYO and includes all class supplies.

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