

Zaria Forman's Latest Pastel Drawings Highlight the Fragility of Polar Ice

By Jessica Stewart on March 20, 2024



For two decades, artist **Zaria Forman** has committed herself to creating art that responds to Earth's changing climate. Specifically, her enormous pastel drawings of the Arctic landscape highlight the urgency needed to counteract the effects of climate change on the planet. In her new exhibition *Fellsfjara, Iceland*, Forman looks closely at the icebergs that have accumulated on Iceland's black sand beaches.

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Her large-scale drawings show this ice under a magnifying lens and render it in magnificent detail. The work is reminiscent of classic **still-life art** in that it honors an inanimate object and highlights its inherent characteristics. At the same time, it also addresses its fragility.



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During her trips to Fellsfjara, which is located on Iceland's southeastern coast, Forman stumbled upon ancient, compressed ice. Enthralled by its complexity and clarity, she set about immortalizing all of the cracks, bubbles, and distortions that tell the story of its history.

"In close-up views of glacial ice set against the velvety richness of churning Arctic waters and black sand, these works add to Forman's career-long contemplation of light and ice; of humanity and nature; of time spent and time left," shares gallery Winston Wächter, which is hosting the show in its New York location. "Forman offers a nuanced clarion call, encouraging viewers to notice, appreciate, and protect the earth's most vulnerable landscapes."

The work, which was first previewed in Reykjavik last year, is a stunning evolution of Forman's art and a continued demonstration of how artists can work to effect change. *Fellsfjara, Iceland*, is currently on view in New York City at [Winston Wächter Fine Art](#) until May 4, 2024.

Fellsfjara, Iceland is a new set of large-scale pastel drawings by artist Zaria Forman.

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Based on the polar ice she found washed up on Iceland's black sand beaches, the drawings show the ice's fragility.



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Jessica Stewart is a Contributing Writer and Digital Media Specialist for My Modern Met, as well as a curator and art historian. Since 2020, she is also one of the co-hosts of the My Modern Met [Top Artist Podcast](#). She earned her MA in Renaissance Studies from University College London and now lives in Rome, Italy. She cultivated expertise in street art which led to the purchase of her photographic archive by the Treccani Italian Encyclopedia in 2014. When she's not spending time with her three dogs, she also manages the studio of a successful street artist. In 2013, she authored the book '[Street Art Stories Roma](#)' and most recently contributed to '[Crossroads: A Glimpse Into the Life of Alice Pasquini](#)'. You can follow her adventures online at [@romephotoblog](#). [Read all posts from Jessica Stewart](#)

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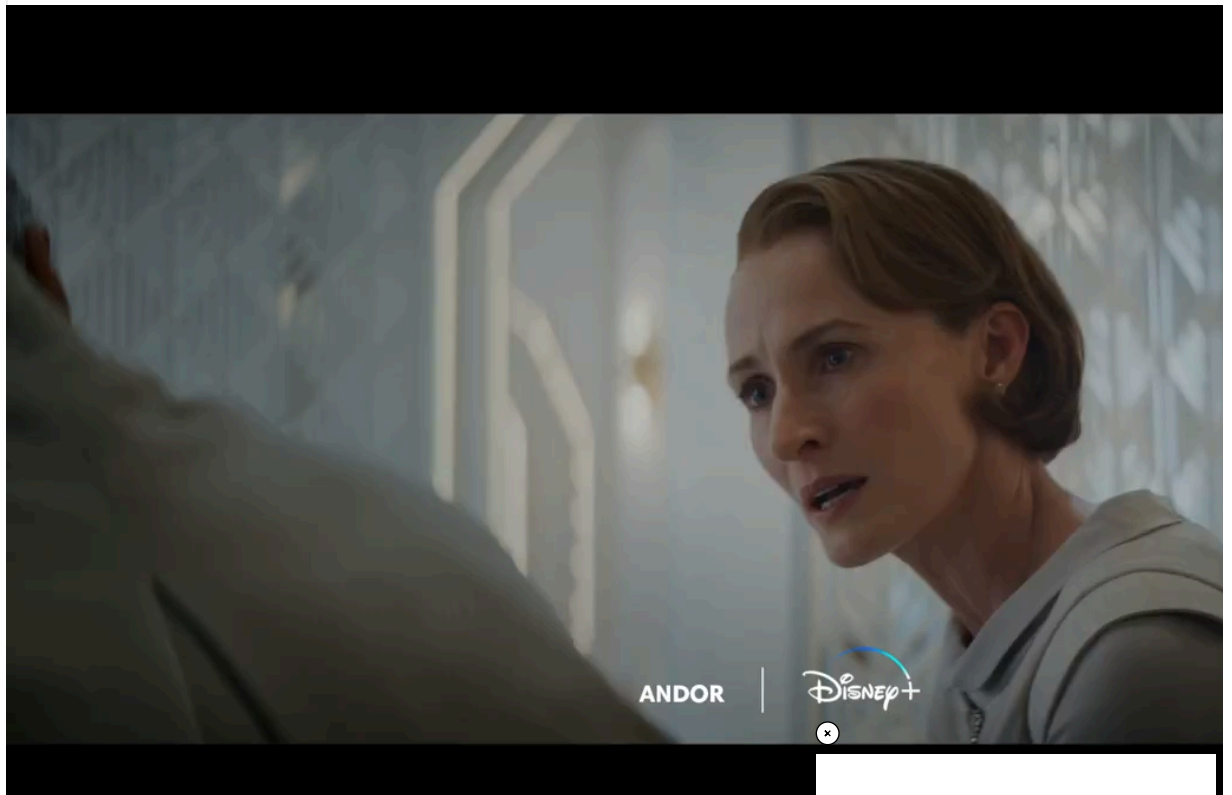
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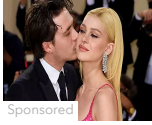
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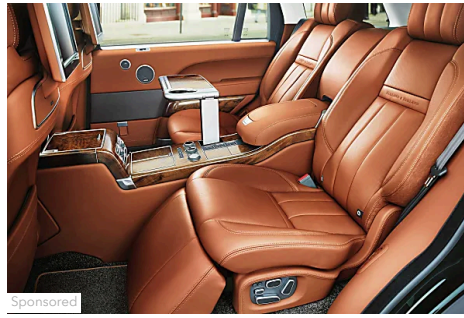
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