



Antarctic Circles

Lucy Bergman

The output is a creative project comprising of an exhibition of songs, photography and sculptural books inspired by the environment, wildlife and cultural heritage of Antarctica. It is a collaboration between visual artists Lucy Bergman and Adele Jackson. Bergman's finished works are cycle of 5 songs, written in response to the Antarctic Treaty and the landscape and wildlife it protects.

Research Process

The name of the project takes inspiration from the circular 60° southern line of latitude that defines the geographical extent of the Antarctic Treaty. The treaty, an international agreement, preserves Antarctica as a place of peace and scientific research where the natural environment is protected against exploitation. The artists have used the circular theme as a creative device to develop the form and the content of the work: the circle recurs in the song structures and rhythms. The sculptural books take on circular and spherical forms. The songs were recorded and performed alongside an exhibition of lyrics, photographic images and other handmade artefacts relating to the context of the project. The songs could also be heard through The Seafarer Listening Station (a converted antique radio).

Research Insight

The works provide visual and sonic information on the subject of Antarctica. The project, as a whole, showcases how artists can employ several different approaches when engaging with a body of land in order to convey a sense of place. For Bergman the outputs provided a new model of collaborative exchange specifically exploring a visual approach to song writing, which has engendered further research into song writing methods and methodology.

Dissemination

The project was disseminated through a peer reviewed exhibition at Barbican Library (2015), accompanied by a lecture including a live musical performance of the Antarctic songs. The project was also exhibited at The Artworks, Halifax (2016), alongside a public lecture and performance.



Antarctic Circles

Adele Jackson & Lucy Bergman

Acknowledgements

The music to accompany Lucy's voice was composed in collaboration with Karl Eden, Joe Hollick & Mark Tattersall.

The Seafarer Listening Station was adapted by artist Noah Rose.

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Graphic Design by Paul Railton

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The exhibitions were made possible through the generous support of many people...

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The proceeds from the sale of this catalogue will be donated to the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust. The Trust is a charitable organisation, which is responsible for the management and conservation of six historic huts along the Antarctic Peninsula.

the
artworks

1830
gallery



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Antarctic Circles is a body of work by artists Adele Jackson and Lucy Bergman. The work was featured in two exhibitions: one at the Barbican Library, London and the second at The Artworks 1830 Gallery, Halifax. The exhibitions featured songs, photographs, postcards and sculptural books inspired by the environment, wildlife and cultural heritage of Antarctica.

The name of the work takes inspiration from the circular 60° southern line of latitude that defines the geographical extent of the Antarctic Treaty. The treaty is the international agreement that preserves Antarctica as a place of peace and scientific research where the natural environment is protected against exploitation and territorial claims are suspended.

The artists used the circle motif as a creative device to develop the form and the content of the work. The song structures and rhythms include reoccurring circular patterns.

Circular and spherical forms inspired the sculptural designs in the book collection. Each design explored a different way of understanding and articulating Antarctica: ice core glaciology and atmospheric sciences; ice crystal formation; flora and fauna; colour; expedition, discovery, territory and treaty.

The photographs were taken during three separate Antarctic summer seasons. Adele sought to document the mesmerizing beauty of the icy landscapes, capture the ephemeral light and record the fragile yet tenacious presence of life. A series of pinhole solargrams track the passing of each day over one Antarctic summer season.

The postcards are a contemporary journal of life and work at Port Lockroy, the first permanent British base in Antarctica and now a living museum and post office.

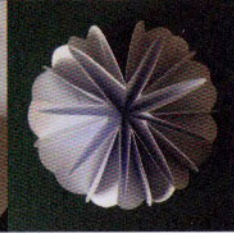
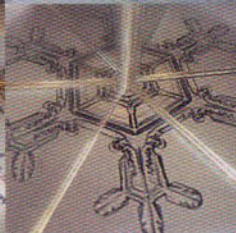
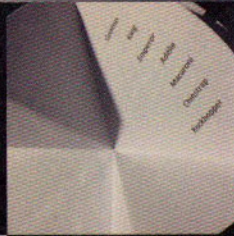
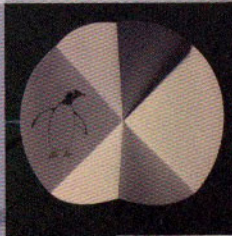
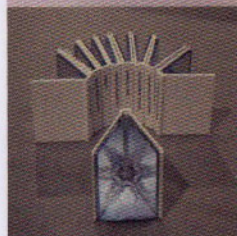
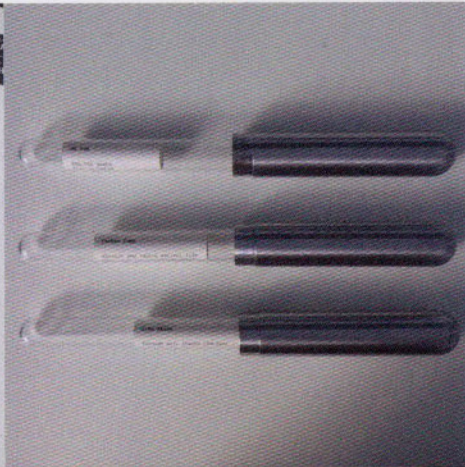
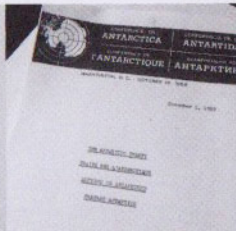
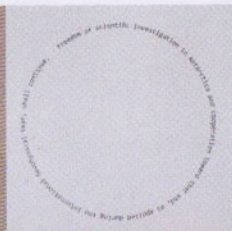
During the exhibition the songs could be heard via the Seafarer Listening Station, an adapted 1960's radio, in the hope that experiencing the music and images together would enhance the enjoyment of each. Lucy produced a cycle of five songs, each one a tender interpretation of the Antarctic environment weaving together personal themes of love, loss, exploration and frailty through the landscape and wildlife of Antarctica.

About the Artists

Adele is a conceptual visual artist. Her work explores human relationships with the natural world. She has worked in Antarctica as photographer on board MS Fram, a Norwegian polar expedition ship; and as base leader at Port Lockroy, the flagship operation of the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust.

Lucy is a singer, songwriter, artist, curator and filmmaker. Her music and artwork explore the perils and peaks of the human heart.







Gateway

Tonight as every night
You move underneath us
Silently you carry us
Through the gateway

For we are just sightseers
Momentary
Despite our calculations
Our movements bend to your whim

But we don't know when we'll meet you

With uneasy sleeplessness
We stare into the darkness
This convergence fathomless beauty
Pulls us clear on through

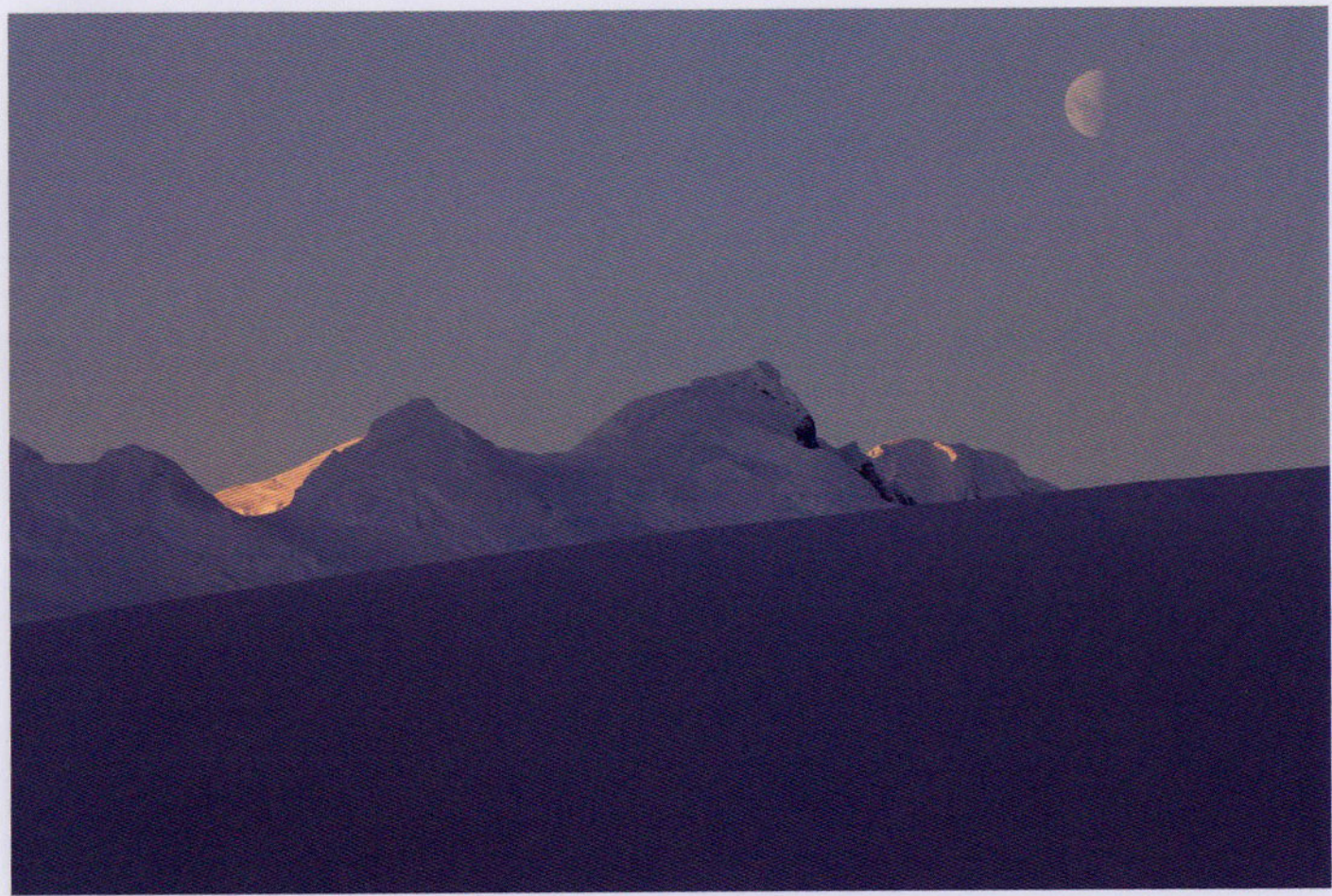
Dawn cracking the first messenger
Standing white and imperial
For we are born out of water
And we will return to water

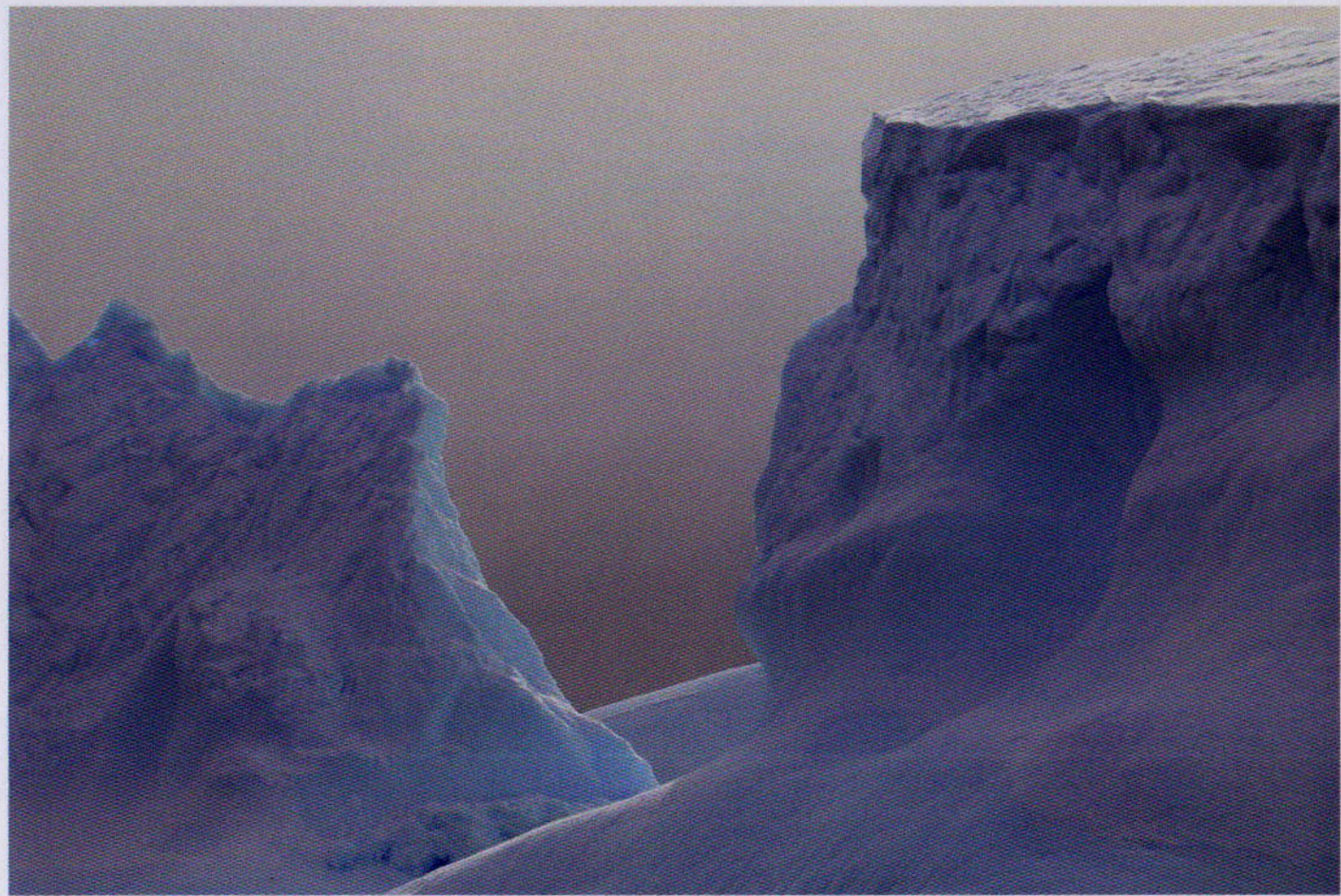
But we don't know when we'll meet you



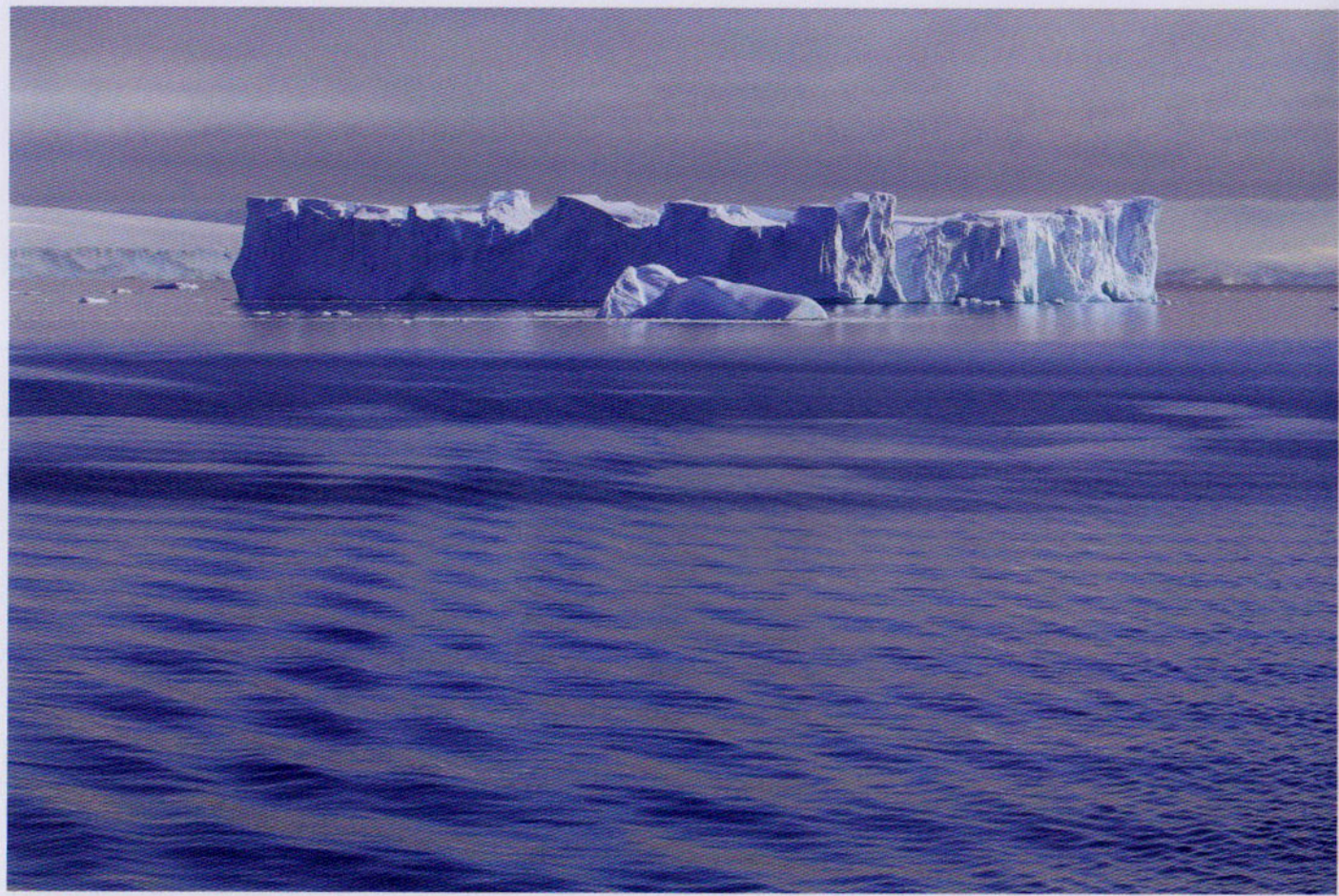




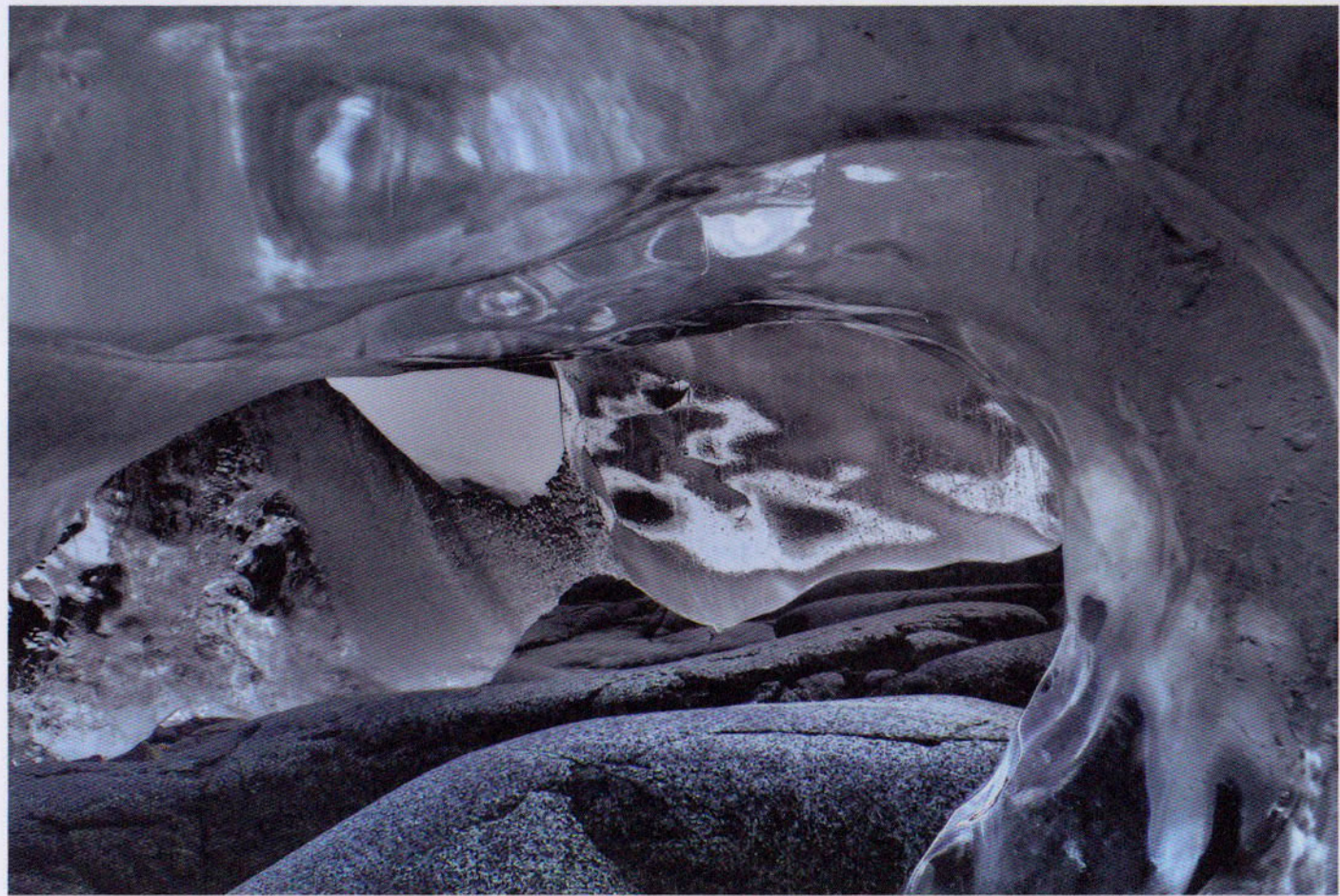












Albatrossa

You make no request
Why sleep on the wing
When you could come home to me?
When you're out there drinking shadows
With misty morning souls
What do you see what do you believe?
You danced a map for me
A fine and feathered thing
A story of you that only I could read

And our tide is going out
Oh Wanderer gliding the way that you do
And with the weight that they hung on you

You leave before the dawn
And drive that Westward Drift
Until your heart has no breath left to rise
Will you go too far this time
Snow blind and cast out
Until the long line drags you down?
Picking feathers from our bed
Smoothing sheets of white
My arms are undone I am ice widow again

And our tide is going out
Oh Wanderer gliding the way that you do
And with the weight that they hung on you
Fisherman flying with that rope around your neck
Your story is not easy to be







1959

1959 when the summer softens your ice locked land
We came to break you up, we will test your
weak spots

The air hangs heavy with our ice breath
As we wintered over and drew up our plans

Twelve nations agree that you shall be ours
Twelve nations agree that you shall be no-ones

The weight of your tears
Could tumble us out of orbit if you decided to

The sky rained parachutes onto your
virgin territories
Scientific instruments to gather and collate all your
secret ways

We watch with awe and wonder as your icebergs
break free
Move out into the pack and drift into extinction

The weight of your tears
Could tumble us out of orbit if you decided to







Right Whale

When the Earth broke apart
You were born like a song
And you swan through the night
Like the brightest of stars

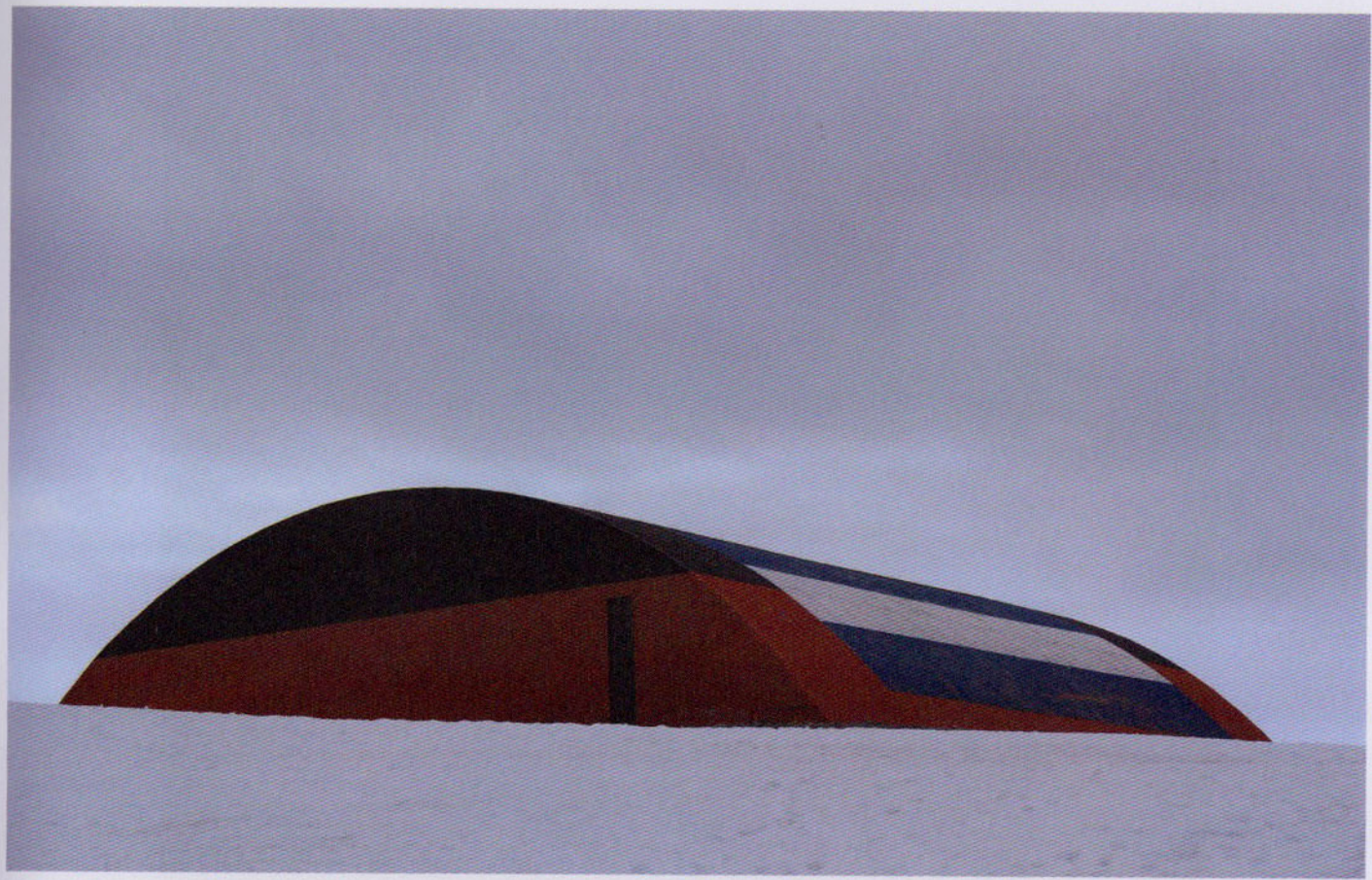
And seemed a moving land
Slipstream through the veins
Of a greater plan

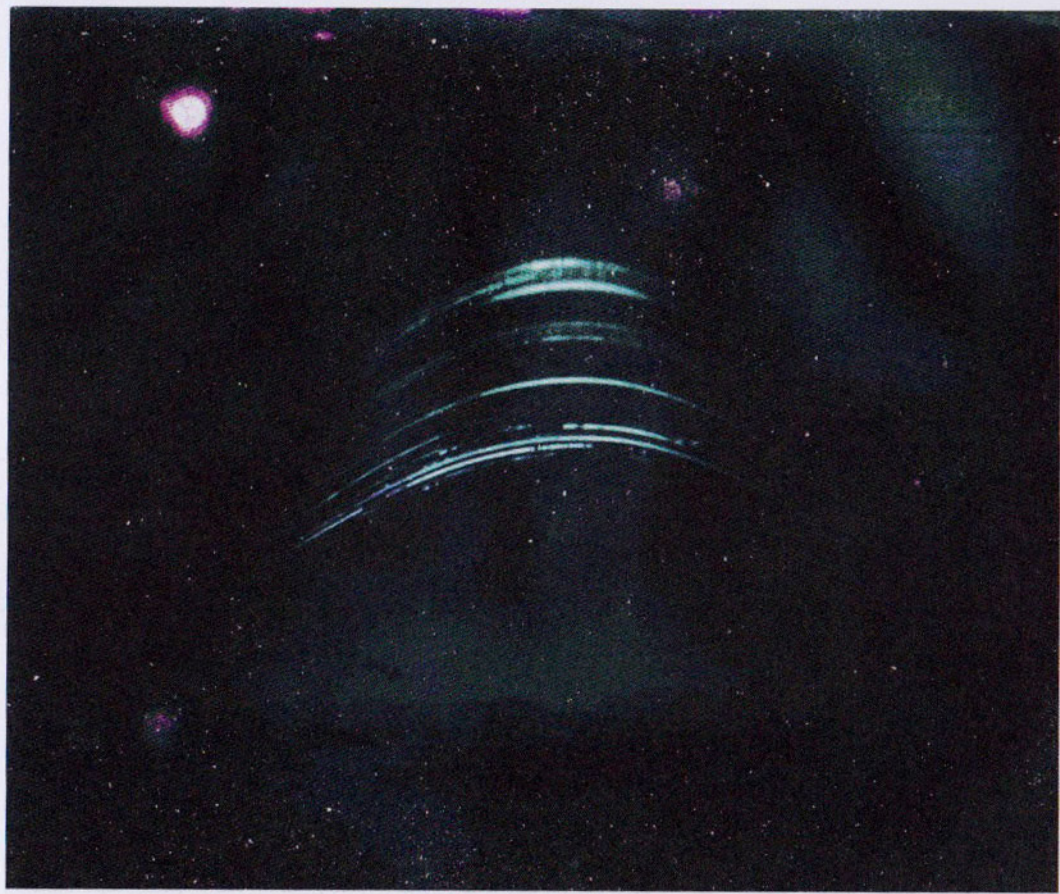
A shadow zeppelin
Underwater cloud
You Leviathan

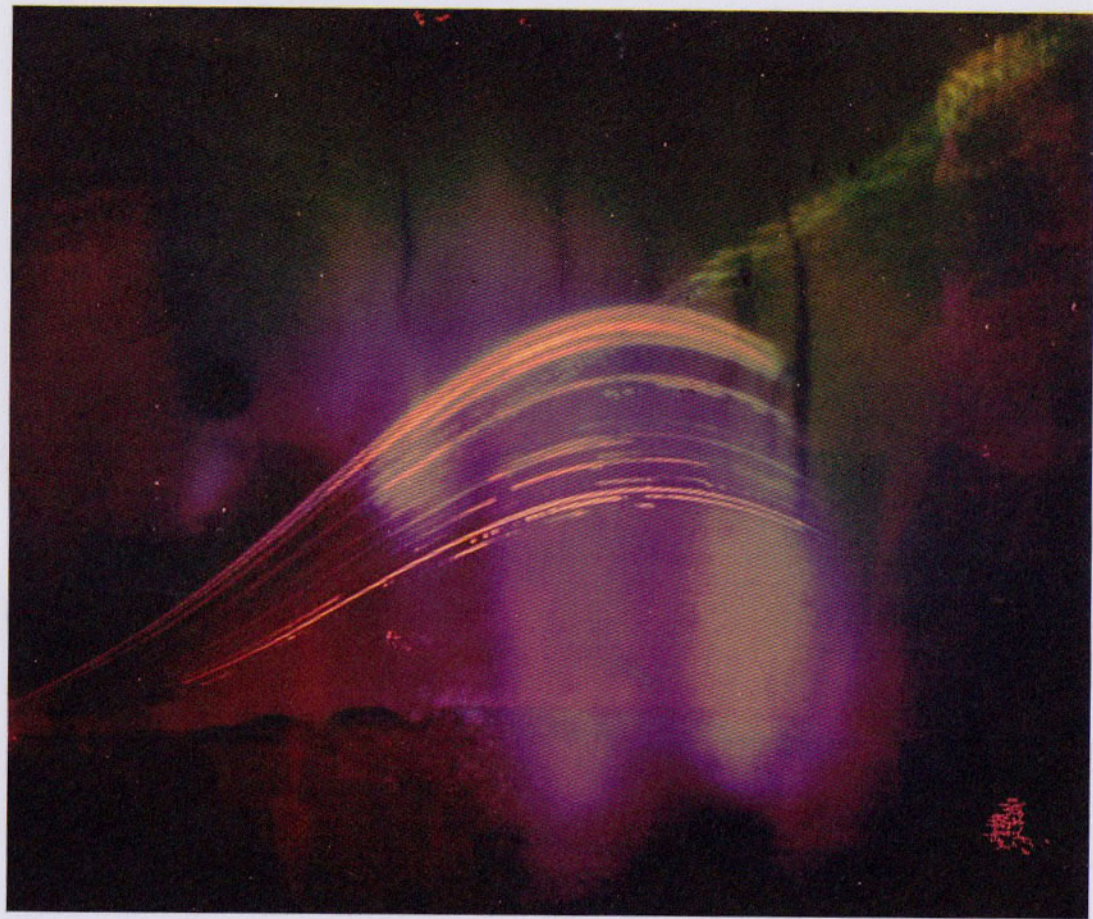
There she blows up ahead
Living gold shot through with blue
Like a dark watermark
On the page of our time

Who is the Right Whale
Caught in the wrong place and time?
Who is the Right Whale?









POST LOCKROY OWNED BY CHARLES IN 1915



Please do not bend

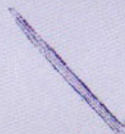
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20 DEC 2015

21 DEC 2015

22 DEC 2015

23 DEC 2015



Under Ice

Under here a strange suspension
Looking up through smashed sky
We are ragged contradictions

You've got to die to come alive

Drifting down in blooms of colour
With our graceless legs and arms
Anchor ice and crystal gardens

Everything is hungry in this cold

Sweetest soul hold your own
Colder and colder I wish thee

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ANTARCTIC
CIRCLES



Underice

Right Whale

1959

Albatrossa

Galeway



Right

When
You
And
Like

the
were
you
the

Earth
born
swan
brightest

like
through
of

broke

Whale

apart
song
night
stars

And
Slipstream
Of

seemed

a
through

moving
the

greater

land
veins
plan

shadow

zeppelin
cloud
Leviathan

through
ark

up

the

ahead
blue
watermark
time

our

Right
ace
Right

and

Whale
time?
Whale?