CARBON 12
ART AND CLIMATE CHANGE
4 May – 16 September 2012
Espace Fondation EDF, Paris, France

With the “CARBON 12, Art and Climate Change” exhibition, the EDF Foundation opens its spaces to CAPE FAREWELL in order to exhibit the findings of a new project lead by the British association.

Involving five teams of scientists and artists, showing works specifically created for the exhibition, Carbon 12 aims to build a bridge between contemporary art and climatology around the central role carbon plays in current ecological evolutions.

Carbon has always served as a base material for artists to draw with. It is a fundamental element for life and the main cause of the greenhouse effect, determinant of our future climate survival. It is logical therefore that it is the title of the exhibition presented by the EDF Foundation.

How to think about, and represent, climate change?
How to initiate a reflection for a cross dialogue between artists and scientists?
CARBON 12 seeks to enrich the research of both parties and to renew public curiosity. David Buckland, founder of Cape Farewell, is the curator of Carbon 12.

Referring to the sea, land and air, the exhibited works are related to biodiversity, oceanography, and maritime energy technologies. They illustrate the complexity of climate change at the core of multiple disciplines.

It is on this multidisciplinary basis that the artist and exhibition curator David Buckland conceived a new understanding of climate change:

Ocean acidification

A large work by David Buckland representing a chalk cliff, illustrates his response to the research led by Debora Iglesias-Rodriguez (National Oceanography Centre, UK) on the Arctic coccolithophores’ role in the absorption of carbon and the acidification of the oceans.
**Technologies of maritime energy**

With the help of drawings, installations and sculptures, the British artist Annie Cattrell reformulates research on the ocean’s role in energy production, the use of the swell and operation of submarine turbines led by Mark C. Bell (ICIT/Herriot-Watt University, UK) and Simon Boxall (National Oceanography Centre, UK).

"**Atmospheric Volatility**"

With "Domestic Disaster 3: Planet Earth", HeHe (a duo formed by Helen Evens and Heiko Hansen) recreates a miniaturized polluted atmosphere placed on a world map. Colourful and artificial, animated by a slow and steady movement, accompanied by a sound choreography, this atmosphere echoes the research on fluid dynamics led by Jean-Marc Chomaz (CNRS, Laboratoire LadHyX, France).

**The damage to the biodiversity of forests**

Lucy + Jorge Orta, in resonance with findings made by Professor Yadvinder Malhi (Environmental Change Institute Oxford, UK), will show a wall of photographs of flowers, digitally reworked, taken during their expedition to the Peruvian Amazon in 2009. Three showcases containing moulded sculptures recall the primary role - as carbon trap – of the Amazonian biodiversity for the ecological balance of the planet.

**Maritime pollution**

A series of photographs and a video created by the American artist Erika Blumenfeld, who worked with Michael Latz (researcher in maritime bioluminescence, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, USA) underline the fundamental role of phytoplankton in the cycle of oxygen’s renewal (up to 50%).

An accessible and educational scenography, videos conceived in close collaboration with scientists, as well as documentaries on Cape Farewell’s work, will allow all members of the public to learn more about the scientific elements involved in the completion of the different works of art.