



## Press Release

### Cape Farewell presents *The Ice Garden*

Kathy Barber, David Buckland, Peter Clegg, Max Eastley, Dan Harvey & Heather Ackroyd, Ian McEwen

15 – 18 December 2005  
Clarendon Quad, Bodleian Library, Oxford

Produced with OOMF!



*We are shaped by our history and biology to frame our plans within the short term, within the scale of a single lifetime. Now we are asked to address the well-being of unborn individuals we will never meet and who, contrary to the usual terms of human interaction, will not be returning the favour...*

Ian McEwen, 2005

Ten two-metre-high columns of ice – metaphorically the amount of carbon dioxide each person in the UK generates in one year – **slowly melt** in the elegant quad by Oxford's Bodleian Library. Onto a cascading sheet of water glacial messages and images from a frozen Arctic fleetingly appear. Nearby a white plaster house shows signs of gradual weathered decomposition and on the walls of the Library overlooking the quad a chilling call to action to save the world from impending self-destruction. Elsewhere in the quad a fragment of glacier – complete with pieces of earth – emits the sound of disintegrating ice.

*The Ice Garden* – uniquely developed for Oxford in association with OOMF! – is a sound, **text**, light and sculptural installation work by leading artists David Buckland, Peter Clegg, Max Eastley, Dan Harvey & Heather Ackroyd and Ian McEwen. A programme of events and workshops will accompany *The Ice Garden* including – on Friday 16 December – a discussion at the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford led by Cape Farewell founder and artist, David Buckland and leading experts on climate change.

The artists form part of Cape Farewell, a group of eighteen artists who have travelled with scientists and educationalists to the Arctic to directly experience the most immediate impacts of global warming. *The Ice Garden* is the first Cape Farewell exhibition showing the artists' work inspired by their sea voyages into the High Arctic.

Following *The Ice Garden*, in June 2006, Cape Farewell launches its first major exhibition as *The Ship – the Art of Climate Change*, a unique national touring programme designed to deepen public understanding of climate change issues. Rachel Whiteread, Gary Hume, David Buckland, Siobhan Davies, Dan & Heather Ackroyd, Peter Clegg, Alex Hartley and other Cape Farewell artists will thread Arctic inspired works and events through the building and outside in the museum gardens. The work will range from a cold pavilion with solar panels and a crystallised whale to dance projections, photography and sound art.

After London *The Ship* travels to the Liverpool Biennial where new works will be shown throughout the city together with a programme of climate change events. In 2007 *The Ship* will manifest in Edinburgh.

Cape Farewell — led by artist David Buckland — is a series of expeditions into the Arctic with artists, scientists and teachers exploring the seas that hold the key to understanding the world's oceans and the changes in our weather patterns and climate. The High Arctic provides such a place for real artistic investigation. The Cape Farewell artists — Rachel Whiteread, Antony Gormley, Gary Hume, Siobhan Davies, Kathy Barber, Gautier Deblonde, Nick Edwards, Gretel Ehrlich, Alex Hartley, David Hinton, Michéle Noach and Suba Subramaniam — are committed to working together towards a common intellectual goal using the Arctic as a source of 'artistic' food to find new and innovative ways of representing this extraordinary place and the implications of global warming.

Geographic Cape Farewell or Cape 'Fare Well' is situated on the southern most point of Greenland, close to one of the places most critical to the understanding of climate change and the important role our oceans play in balancing the health of the planet. Although climate change is widely acknowledged, the challenge now is to dramatically reduce our carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions. In emotionally engaging the public through their artistic endeavour, Cape Farewell artists aim to emphasize how important issues of climate change are in contrast to the rational science-focused arguments promoted in the mainstream media.

[www.capefarewell.com](http://www.capefarewell.com) was recently awarded *World e-Science Winner* at the *World Summit Awards 2005* part of the *UN World Summit on the Information Society Awards*. The winning projects will be presented as the world's best at the Award Gala in November 2005.

A documentary about Cape Farewell's expeditions to the Arctic by filmmaker David Hinton will be broadcast on BBC4 on 13 January 2006. Hinton art directed Bernardo Bertolucci's *The Last Emperor* and the Chinese documentary *Children of the Revolution*, both BAFTA award winners. He has also made dance films including one on the choreography of Siobhan Davies and *Dead Dreams of Monochromic Men* and *Strange Fish* with DV8 Dance Company.

**For further information and images please contact Janette Scott on [janettescott@capefarewell.com](mailto:janettescott@capefarewell.com) or 07966 486156 or 020 7209 0610.**

#### Notes to Editors

1. *The Ice Garden* can be seen 4pm-8pm daily at the Clarendon Quad, Bodleian Library, Oxford. Admission free.
2. Cape Farewell in partnership with OOMF, organisers of Oxford's millennium festival and Open City events. *The Ice Garden* is one of the final events of Oxford's *Evolving City 2005* programme from OOMF! Oxford's outdoor event company. *Evolving City* is a cultural programme co-ordinated by *Oxford Inspires* and supported by DCMS, the Arts Council, England, Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire County Council. *The Ice Garden* is part of a long-term initiative developed by Cape Farewell in partnership with Natural History Museum, funded by the Arts Council, England and supported by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. Produced with OOMF! and Cape Farewell would like to thank the Bodleian Library and the University of Oxford in bringing *The Ice Garden* to the heart of Oxford. For further information about OOMF! and *The Ice Garden* see [www.oomf.org.uk](http://www.oomf.org.uk) or contact Catherine Boyd on 07946 474570 or [catherineboyd@btinternet.com](mailto:catherineboyd@btinternet.com)
3. To date, Cape Farewell has successfully completed three sailing expeditions to the High Arctic. In total seven scientists from the National Oceanography Centre, five educators, seven film crew, eighteen artists and four journalists including Quentin Cooper of Radio 4's *Material World* have witnessed the dramatic changes caused by global warming. For further **information** see [www.capefarewell.com](http://www.capefarewell.com). Cape Farewell, 239 Royal College Street, London NW1 9LT. Tel: 020 7209 0610.

