

PRESS RELEASE

Arts organisation Cape Farewell leads its first expedition outside the Arctic to the Peruvian Andes with a group of 18 international artists and scientists.

This summer, Cape Farewell invites **Artists** Adriane Colburn, Daro Montag, Lucy & Jorge Orta, **Novelist** Yann Martel, **Photographer** Ana Ceclia Gonzales Vigil, **Designer** Marije De Haas, **Sound Artist** Brenndan McGuire, **Animator** Anthony Santoro, **Camera man** Matt Wainwright and **climate science communicator** Rhian Salmon to explore the impacts of climate change in the Andean Mountains with **Scientists** Prof Yadvinder Malhi, Dr Joshua Fisher, and Kathryn Clark from Oxford University.

23 June 2009 – 10 July 2009

Working with scientists at the Environmental Change Institute (ECI), Oxford University. The Cape Farewell expedition will visit shrinking glaciers, cloud forests, tropical Montane forests, areas of deforestation and the Amazon.

Since 2003, Cape Farewell has led seven expeditions to the High Arctic, the ambition of Cape Farewell's first expedition to the Andes is to invite artists to witness the impact of climate change in another major climate tipping point; rainforests. The journey, will allow for the Cape Farewell voyagers to visit multiple science stations and partake in varied climate research to gain a full understanding of the breadth of research being undertaken in the Andes and the implications of human activity on this fragile environment. The expedition will inspire the creative team to respond to climate change both during the trip and on their return.

The Andean cloud forests and adjoining Amazonian lowlands have the highest biodiversity in the world – there are more species of trees in 100m² of some Amazonian forests than in the whole of Europe. This variety of species is continually reduced and will be even more once the ecosystem is thoroughly disturbed.

Moreover, tropical forests are large carbon sinks and the destruction of the forests will lead to an acceleration of climate change already now accounting for approximately 20% of the world's carbon emissions.

Sign up to Cape Farewell's twitter feed www.twitter.com/capefarewell to receive live tweets during the expedition...satellite phone permitting.

"The cloud forests of the Andes and the adjacent lowlands of the Amazon are biologically the richest place on Earth (for example, home to 15% of all plant species on the planet, half of which are found nowhere else). They also may be particularly vulnerable to climate change, and scientists are only just beginning to piece together a picture of how these incredible ecosystems are responding to climate change. This journey will provide a magical opportunity to explore both the majesty and vulnerability of the Andes and the Amazon"

Yadvinder Malhi, Professor of Ecosystem science, Environmental Change Institute

"Climate change on its own is an impersonal force, deeply disempowering. Art inspired by climate change, because the making of art is personally involving, a whole-person activity, is empowering, both for the maker and the spectator."

Yann Martel,
Booker prize-winning novelist
joining the 2009 expedition

"Cape Farewell's premise is that climate change will affect all communities globally. The way we have developed our lifestyles has created a problem and the solution is therefore a cultural responsibility. Cape Farewell asks the best scientific and creative minds to respond to and inspire a sustainable cultural vision to this potentially devastating climate reality "

David Buckland,
Director of Cape Farewell

Visit www.capefarewell.com
to find out more about the
expedition



NOTES TO EDITORS

Cape Farewell pioneers the cultural response to climate change. Working internationally, it brings artists, scientists and communicators together to stimulate the production of art founded in scientific research. Using creativity to innovate, Cape Farewell engages artists for their ability to evolve and amplify a creative language, communicating on a human scale the urgency of the global climate challenge. Cape Farewell is widely acknowledged to be the most significant sustained artistic response to climate change anywhere in the world.

Created by artist David Buckland in 2001, Cape Farewell has led a series of expeditions into the Arctic inviting artists to places of natural beauty and artistic inspiration to see first hand the effects of climate change. Past voyagers include Jarvis Cocker, KT Tunstall, Martha Wainwright, Ian McEwan, Siobhan Davies, Antony Gormley, Gary Hume and Rachel Whiteread. Over 50 Artists have voyaged with Cape Farewell to the Arctic. Cape Farewell is working with an expanding group of partners, including the Eden Project and Southbank Centre to bring its cultural work to a national and international audience at this critical time for the planet.

The 2009 Andes expedition is Cape Farewell's first expedition outside of the Arctic and is run in collaboration with the ECI (Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford). It follows the science programme Climate and Ecosystem Dynamics in an Andean to Amazon transect.

This major research programme in the Andes, uses data from study sites ranging from the lowland Amazon forest to the high Andes to understand what determines the carbon dynamics of Andean montane forests, and how this may be altered by climate change.

Cape Farewell artwork has been exhibited across the UK (London, Oxford, Liverpool, Newcastle, Folkestone and Cornwall), in Europe (Oslo, Brussels, Hamburg, Madrid, Monaco and Munich) in North America (Colorado, Chicago and New York City) and in Japan (Tokyo). Cape Farewell has also produced a publication, Burning Ice – Art and Climate Change, a BBC film and DVD, Art from the Arctic and Max Eastley's Arctic CD.

Cape Farewell's programme is made possible through the support of a number of trusts and foundations including Arts Council England, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Musagetes Foundation, British Council, The Bromley Trust and Ashden Trust.

The expedition is made possible through the support of the Musagetes Foundation, Natural History Museum, Bromley Trust, Greenpeace Environmental Trust, University College Falmouth, Compton Foundation, Iridium, Centro Cultural Peruano Británico and British Embassy, Peru.

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