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## PRESS RELEASE

### ***Art from the Arctic***

A 59' film by David Hinton for Cape Farewell  
BBC2: 31 May 2006, 23:20hrs

Between 2003 and 2005 award-winning filmmaker David Hinton travelled 2,500 nautical miles on three expeditions aboard the schooner Nooderlicht filming artists, scientists and educators exploring the pristine environment of the High Arctic as part of the Cape Farewell project. The result was *Art from the Arctic*, a 59' film to be broadcast on BBC2 on 31 May at 23:20hrs. The film shows the artists' response to their surroundings – from silent admiration at the drama of the landscape to awestruck wonder as a yet another massive glacier disintegrates into the sea. Some of the artists were inspired to create artworks: carving optical ice lenses and cameras, making glacial projections, creating habitable snow-rooms, sketching, drawing and writing whilst others absorbed - in contemplative solitude – the environment around them. One of the Cape Farewellers, international artist Rachel Whiteread, whose towering *Embankment* was Arctic inspired describes her experience as being like “an astronaut. I felt like I had just landed on this place and felt like I shouldn't actually be here.” The artists endured temperatures of -35°C, the stormy waters of the 'Devil's Dancefloor', sea sickness and the cramped conditions of nautical living in their attempts to directly experience the effects of global warming. Scientists from the National Oceanography Centre in Southampton carried out detailed analyses of the Arctic waters, measuring changes in sea temperature and salinity and plankton levels.

Cape Farewell - led by artist David Buckland — is a combined creative, scientific and educational programme exploring the seas that hold the key to understanding the world's oceans and the changes in our weather patterns and climate. The artists who have undertaken expeditions with Cape Farewell — Kathy Barber, David Buckland, Peter Clegg, Siobhan Davies, Gautier Deblonde, Max Eastley, Nick Edwards, Antony Gormley, Dan Harvey & Heather Ackroyd, Gary Hume, Ian McEwan, Gretel Ehrlich, Alex Hartley, David Hinton, Michéle Noach, Suba Subramaniam and Rachel Whiteread have worked together 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.

David Hinton directed a documentary on the making of 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.

*Art from the Arctic* was edited from over two hundred hours of 8mm, 16mm and Digibeta film and HDV, DVCAM and DVC footage shot by cameramen Philip Chavannes, Ole Bratt, Nick Edwards, Duncan Harris and David Buckland. The soundtrack of cracking glacial ice is complemented by sound artist Max Eastley's live recordings of the 'songs' of bearded walrus and the chillingly predictive and perceptive words of writer Ian McEwan. Actor Bill Paterson provides the main narrative for the film.

The broadcast of *Art from the Arctic* coincides with the opening of Cape Farewell's major exhibition at the Natural History Museum, *The Ship – the Art of Climate Change* (3 June – 3 September) and the launch of a book, *Burning Ice: Art and Climate Change*.

**For further information or press images of *Art from the Arctic* please contact Janette Scott on 07966 486156 or [janettescott@capefarewell.com](mailto:janettescott@capefarewell.com).**

#### **Notes to Editors**

1. Geographic Cape Farewell or 'Kap Farvel' 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 reduce dramatically our carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions. In engaging with the public emotionally through their artistic endeavour, Cape Farewell artists aim to emphasise the important issues of climate change in conjunction with the rational science-focused arguments promoted in the mainstream media.
2. [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 Award