

Studio Olafur Eliasson

Background Information

In recent years, Olafur Eliasson has explored how art can address global issues and reach audiences in ways that traditional outreach and awareness raising cannot. This investigation has led to a number of artworks and projects that include the photographic art work *The glacier melt series 1999/2019* (2019), the public installation *Ice Watch* (2014), the social business Little Sun, and the practice of his studio kitchen, which serves locally sourced, vegetarian meals to studio members.

In 2019, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) appointed Olafur Eliasson as a Goodwill Ambassador for his efforts to advance the Sustainable Development Goals. In this role, Eliasson will continue to advocate for sustainable energy (SDG 7) and climate action (SDG 13), helping UNDP to raise awareness and mobilise support through projects that promote renewable energy, reduce CO2 emissions and protect the planet.

About *The glacier melt series 1999/2019*

In 1999, Olafur Eliasson photographed several dozen glaciers in Iceland as part of his on-going project to document the landscape and natural phenomena of the country; this particular series of photographs formed a work called *The glacier series*. Twenty years later, Eliasson decided to return to Iceland to photograph the glaciers again. A new work, *The glacier melt series 1999/2019*, brings together images from 1999 and 2019 to reveal the dramatic impact that global heating is having on our world.

The series is on view as part of the exhibition *Olafur Eliasson: In real life* at Tate Modern, London until 5 January 2020. The exhibition travels to Guggenheim Bilbao, 13 February-21 June 2020. *The glacier melt series 1999/2019* will also be on display at Reykjavik Art Museum, Iceland, from 27 November 2019 to 9 February 2020.

Visit glacermelt.is

About *Ice Watch*, 2014

Ice Watch is a large-scale intervention in public space by Eliasson and geologist Minik Rosing that seeks to communicate the urgency of the climate crisis and raise awareness of the need for concerted global action. Large blocks of ice cast off from the Greenland ice sheet were harvested from a fjord outside Nuuk and

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presented in prominent public spaces to present passers-by with a tangible experience of the disappearing Greenland ice sheet.

The first installment opened in 2014 outside Copenhagen's City Hall to mark the publication of the UN Fifth Assessment Report on Climate Change by the IPCC. In 2015, Ice Watch Paris at the Place du Panthéon accompanied the 2015 COP 21 talks that led to the Paris Climate Agreement. From 11 December 2018 to 2 January 2019, Ice Watch London was presented at two locations in London – outside Bloomberg's European headquarters and in front of Tate Modern on the occasion of COP 24.

Visit icewatchlondon.com

About Little Sun

In 2012, Olafur Eliasson founded the social business Little Sun, together with engineer Frederik Ottesen, to bring clean, affordable solar energy to the 1.1 billion people living without electricity. Since then, more than 830,000 Little Sun lamps have been distributed worldwide, with more than half going to off-grid areas. Purchasing Little Suns in areas of the world with electricity makes the products available in off-grid areas at reduced, locally affordable prices, where they provide a clean alternative to toxic and expensive fuel-based lighting and a steadfast and clean alternative to relying on the electrical grid. On the ground, mainly in Sub-Saharan Africa, Little Sun work with local entrepreneurs to create local jobs and to bring the power of the sun to everyone.

Visit littlesun.com and follow @littlesunenergy on Instagram

About Studio Olafur Eliasson Kitchen

Four days a week, the kitchen team at Studio Olafur Eliasson prepares organic, vegetarian meals that are shared by the full 100-person studio team as well as guests and collaborators who happen to be visiting at the time. The kitchen provides sustenance, a healthy diet, downtime, and social glue. The kitchen team collaborates with Apfeltraum, a biodynamic farm located just outside of Berlin. In 2019, for the duration of *Olafur Eliasson: In real life* at Tate Modern, London, the kitchen collaborated with Tate Eats on a climate friendly menu for Tate Modern's Terrace Bar.

Follow @soe_kitchen on Instagram