



# Climate Feedback Loops

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2-channel video installation by Oliver Ressler

4K videos, 23 min., 2023



"Climate Feedback Loops", 2-channel video installation, 2023. Installation view: "Climate Feedback Loops", Humber Street Gallery, Hull, 2023. Photo: Jules Lister

Temperatures in the Arctic are rising 5-7 times faster than the global average. Svalbard, the archipelago between the Northern coast of Norway and the North Pole, has become a hotspot, perhaps the fastest overheating place on the entire planet.

The Arctic sea ice of largely uninhabited Svalbard is disappearing at a rate of roughly 13 per cent per decade. This destroys the fragile relations of mutual dependence that make life on this planet possible. In mid-summer, the Svalbard sea ice now melts almost completely. The loss of this white ice, which reflects sunlight, increases absorption of sunlight by the sea and rocks, leading in turn to rising temperatures. This effect is known as "Arctic amplification".



"Climate Feedback Loops", 2-channel video installation, 2023. Installation view: "Climate Feedback Loops", Humber Street Gallery, Hull, 2023. Photo: Jules Lister

Extreme warming (7-8 degrees above pre-industrial levels) thaws enormous amounts of methane, sealed through millennia into permafrost soil. The resulting greenhouse gases leak into the atmosphere, increasing temperatures further and thawing yet more permafrost soil. Chain reactions of this kind, repeated over and over again and no longer stoppable, are "climate feedback loops".

This project is based on recordings made in Svalbard in the framework of an expedition in July 2022. The sounds of Arctic collapse in the installation serve as acoustic counterpart to the collapse of the texture of life, which has already begun.



"Climate Feedback Loops", 2-channel video installation, 2023. Installation view: "Climate Feedback Loops", Kunsthalle Krems, Krems, 2023. Photo: Walter Skokanitsch

Director and producer: Oliver Ressler

Cinematography: Oliver Ressler

Editing: Enar de Dios Rodríguez, Oliver Ressler

Text: Matthew Hyland, Oliver Ressler

Color correction: Rudolf Gottsberger

Sound design and music editing: Vinzenz Schwab

Music: As Deafness Increases (Inga Margrethe Aas, Rudolf Terland Bjørnerem, Henrik Munkeby Nørstebø)

Special thanks to: Eva la Cour, Enar de Dios Rodríguez, Marianne Lewsley-Stier, Thomas Edlinger, David McLeavy, Peter Wadhams, Lauren Wilson.

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