

LET'S TALK CLIMATE

In honor of [Museum Week](#) #climateMW



Michael Kienitz, **Svínafellsjökull with Ice Sheet**, 2016, ink jet mounted on aluminum, Shirley G. Epstein Endowment Fund Purchase, 2017.7.

A **glacier** is a huge mass of ice and snow that forms where snow gathers faster than it melts and flows along with water over an area of land.

Madison photographer [Michael Kienitz](#) captured the image above during a 5-year project photographing glaciers in the region of Vatnajökull National Park in Iceland. The glaciers of Vatnajökull and glaciers around the world have been **retreating** (getting smaller) due to **climate change**.

Climate change refers to the rising temperatures caused when we burn oil, gas, and coal and fill landfills with trash. Vatnajökull is estimated to be melting at a rate of one meter per year and many of its outlet glaciers are melting at an even higher rate.

LOOK

Take a close look at the photograph above. What do you see? How would you describe this photograph?

What do you notice about the glacier? Does it seem like anything is missing from this photo? What do you see that makes you say that?

#ChazenFromHome



Chazen Museum of Art

LET'S TALK CLIMATE: ICE EXPLORATION

Supplies Needed

Baking tray
Ice cube tray or bowls
Watercolor or food coloring
Salt—any kind will do!



1

Freeze a tray of ice cubes over night. You can also freeze ice in a variety of different containers (plastic bag, bowls, etc.) if you do not have any trays. Experiment with shape!

2

Remove the ice from the container and place it on a baking tray. Bring the tray outside. If you aren't able to work outside, protect your work surface with newspaper to avoid stains.

3

Stack your ice cubes and add watercolor to form your "glacier". If using food coloring, apply slowly, one drop at a time. What happens when the colors blend?

4

Now sprinkle some salt over the top of your "glacier". What happens? In what ways, does this reaction this mimic climate change?

5

Keep experimenting and get creative! What happens when you add flour? What happens when you add non-frozen water? How does your "glacier" change?

Did you try this at home? Share your work with us and tag @chazenartuw on social media!