

AMERICAN
art
COLLECTOR



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*Also Showcasing
Glass, Ceramics & Wood*



ZARIA FORMAN

Capturing climate change



1
Zaria Forman working in her Brooklyn studio. Photo by Brian Maranan Pineda.

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Svalbard #33, soft pastel on paper, 60 x 90"

3
Waipi'o, Hawaii, soft pastel on paper, 30 x 45"

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Greenland #72, soft pastel on paper, 60 x 60"

Artwork courtesy Winston Wächter Fine Art. Artist headshot by Trevor Traynor.



Scan for VIDEO

The locales Zaria Forman portrays in her pastel works are constantly changing in real life. The icebergs in her *Greenland* series are melting, the waves in the *Maldives* series are rising, and the forms depicted in her *Svalbard* works endure continual restructuring. While global climate change is alarming to many, Zaria strives to portray the beauty in these landscapes, as opposed to the devastation, as the self-described positive person would rather give people hope than despair while still spurring positive change in how humanity cares for nature.

"I'm trying to turn scientists' warnings and statistics into a more accessible medium, and hopefully it inspires people to make an impact in their own lives, no matter how big or small that may be—whether they turn the air conditioning down or make sure the water is not left running," says Zaria, based in Brooklyn, New York. "I try to maintain optimism, and I do think there is a positive side if we can

move forward and think hopefully, instead of trudging through the past, our mistakes and what's been done."

Zaria creates works based on places she's visited, as well as landscapes captured in photographs by her friend, artist Todd Murphy, and her photographer mother, Rena Bass Forman. Zaria says the inspiration for her drawings began in her early childhood, when she traveled with her family throughout several of the world's most remote landscapes, from southern India to the Western desert plains, which became subjects for her mother's fine art photography. Rena passed away four years ago, and Zaria says working from her photos is a lovely way to collaborate with her.

In the past decade, Zaria has traveled to Greenland multiple times, the Maldives, Newfoundland, and Svalbard, and she plans on trekking to Antarctica this fall. She has focused on capturing climate change in her work since 2012, and part of the proceeds from works from her *Maldives* and *Greenland*

series are donated to 350.org, which promotes online campaigns, grassroots organizing and mass public actions dedicated to building a global climate movement. Zaria has donated more than \$5,500 to the organization so far.

On her 2013 trip to the Maldives, the lowest and flattest country in the world, near the equator, Zaria and her companions—painter Lisa Lebofsky and filmmaker Drew Denny—met with meteorologists and climatologists at the Maldivian Department of Meteorology to discuss rising seas. The trio's collaborative efforts compile the art/film/education project *Ice to Islands*, an ever-evolving enterprise to facilitate a deeper understanding of climate change.

Zaria will exhibit about a dozen new works at her upcoming exhibition at Winston Wächter Fine Art in New York City. The gallery's Seattle location has shown Zaria's work since 2007, and gallery co-owner Christine Wächter-Campbell says, "Zaria is a young rising artist whose



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meticulously rendered pastel works on paper demonstrate her connection and passion to the locations she re-creates. Her delicate use of light and contrast accentuates the incredible detail and complexity of each composition.”

One of Zaria’s collectors, Jody Kapnick, says in addition to its striking beauty, Zaria’s work complements Kapnick’s family’s love and concern for the environment, as Kapnick’s daughter is a climate physicist,

and her son is a geologist.

“There is a strident urgency in Zaria’s work that belies the beauty and accessibility her art affords,” says Kapnick. “Our daughter ‘found’ Zaria, because as a family, we have been looking for a piece that was of nature and had very gripping elements. We did not want a ‘pretty picture,’ but a picture that grabbed you by the shoulders and made you take a stand, and also revel in its majesty.” That

sentiment resonates with how Zaria wants her art, some works spanning more than 10 feet wide, to impact viewers.

“My drawings explore moments of transition, turbulence and tranquility in the landscape, allowing viewers to emotionally connect with a place they may never have the chance to visit,” Zaria says. “If people can experience the sublimity of these landscapes, perhaps they will be inspired to protect and preserve them.” ●