

Cold Listening

Jonathan Kay

Cold Listening is an exhibition by Jonathan Kay that contemplates the fragility of our landscapes through the surveying of Haupapa/Tasman glacier. Kay began exploring these glaciers as a way of making sense of the environments in Aotearoa impacted by climate change. Over seven years and several visits, Kay has spent time on the glaciers, observed the lakes and icebergs that carve off during melting, and followed the streams and rivers that connect this water system. Through a range of photographic interventions *Cold Listening* offers a deeper look at these vulnerable landscapes.

These works play with the conventions of landscape imagery — the intensely coloured fabrics of the cyanotypes utilise an early cameraless photographic technology to capture the physicality and chemistry of the ice and water. The resulting works provide an uncanny index of the body of the glaciers, capturing their mutable, slippery surfaces in a delightful demonstration of the active transformations that characterise the glacial lifecycle.

Meanwhile, the black and white photographs and video work eschew the spectacular, attempting instead to draw our attention more intimately to the forms, structures, and details of glacial terrains.

Tracing with his camera its transformations from mountaintop to terminus (end of the glacier), Kay poetically documents the glacier by both *looking at* and *being in* the environment. What emerges is a dialogue, mediated by Kay's photographic processes, between the body of the artist and the body of the glacier; a dialogue that speaks of the inextricable yet increasingly fragile connections between human and more-than-human worlds.

The artist would like to thank Massey University, and in particular, Michael Bridgman, Peter Miles, Harry Culy, Jane Wilcox and Will Bennett for their technical support. He would also like to acknowledge the support of Dr Barbara Garrie, Jhana Millers Gallery, Angus Woodhams, and the whole CoCA team, including Sarah Aspinwall, Jade Cavalcante and Paula Granger. CoCA and the artist would like to thank John Owens and Mike Boulden for their installation expertise.

1.

Cross section

Huapapa/Tasman Glacier

Glacial cyanotype photogram

on silk

2024
2.

Water continuum

Sand blasted glass

250 x 170mm

2024
3.

Ice form #1

Huapapa/Tasman Glacier

Archival inkjet print

1117 x 928mm

2024
4.

Cold Listening

Huapapa/Tasman Glacier

Digital pinhole video HD, 3

channel. 16 minutes. Projected

on to Acrylic MDF panels

1220 x 2170mm

2024

Accompanying soundscape,

Jonathan Kay in collaboration

with Angus Woodhams.
5.

Ice form #2

Huapapa/Tasman Glacier

Archival inkjet print

1117 x 928mm

2024
6.

Ice form #3

Huapapa/Tasman Glacier

Archival inkjet print

1117 x 928mm

2024
7.

Field notes

Sand blasted glass

250 x 170mm

2024
8.

Brink #1

Haupapa/Tasman glacier

Framed digital archival ink-jet print

380x 550mm

2017
9.

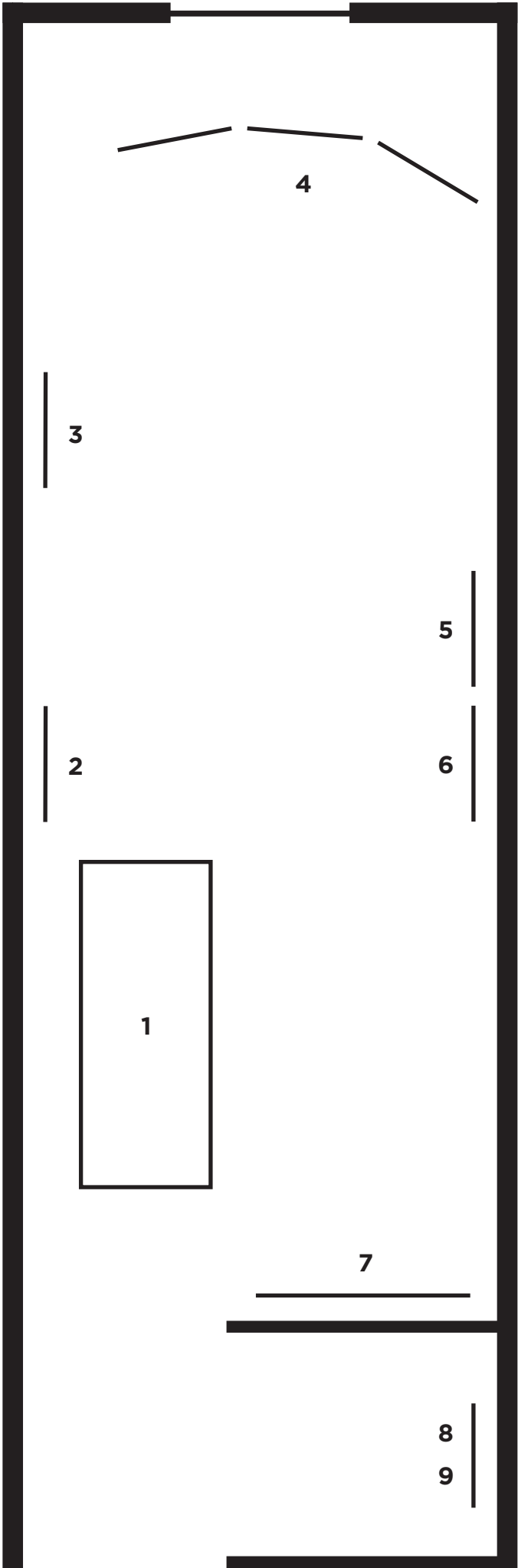
Brink #2

Haupapa/Tasman glacier

Framed digital archival ink-jet print

380x 550mm

2017



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