

Press Release

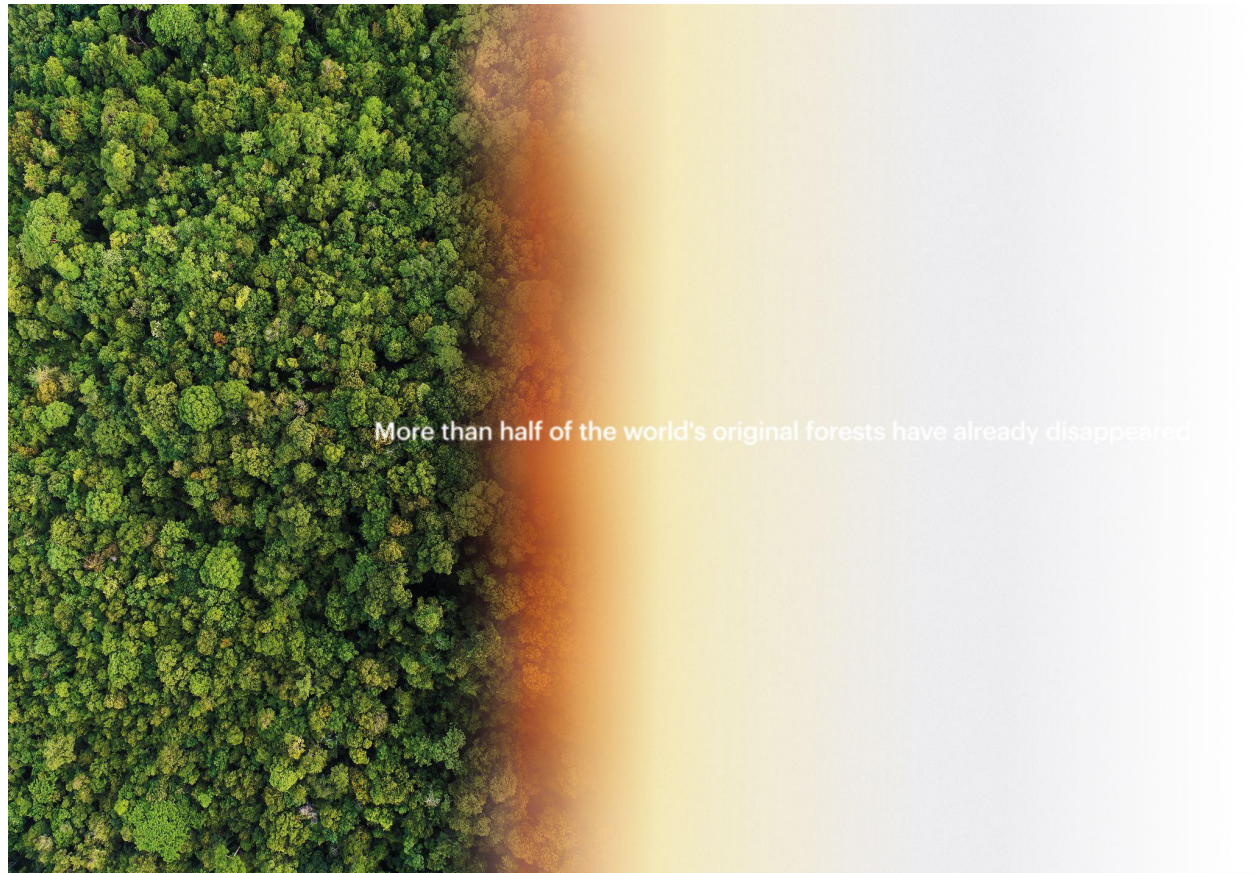
Oliver Ressler: *Barricading the Ice Sheets*

The Showroom, London

Preview: Tuesday 18 April 2023, 6.30-8.30pm

Exhibition continues: 19 April-24 June 2023

Open Wednesday-Saturday, 12-6pm



Oliver Ressler, *More than half the world's original forests have already disappeared*, digital print, 2022.
Courtesy of the artist; àngels, Barcelona; The Gallery Apart, Rome.

The Showroom presents *Barricading the Ice Sheets*, an exhibition by artist **Oliver Ressler** in the context of his eponymous research endeavour focused on climate justice movements.

The exhibition incorporates a selection of new and existing works in a contextually calibrated presentation of the wider research that constitutes *Barricading the Ice Sheets*. For Ressler this research materialises as films, photographic works, a conference and publications which have been unfolding through an iterative, international cycle of exhibitions throughout 2021-23; now culminating at The Showroom.

Barricading the Ice Sheets at The Showroom investigates climate breakdown, the climate justice and activism movements and the relation of the latter to the arts. The title refers, as Ressler explains, 'both to

the scale of emergency that the climate justice movement faces and the scope of what it sets out to do. To barricade ice sheets as they melt is physically impossible, yet the movement is attempting something historically unprecedented, because in recorded human history the planet has never confronted such an absolute threat ... when Arctic ice melts, sea levels rise everywhere; islands and cities sink; the global exploitation of agriculture and fisheries lurch off schedule.'

A public programme will accompany the exhibition, connecting with key London-based voices including those active in the climate movement; as well as with activist networks contributing to public demonstrations in the city over the duration of the exhibition, and with local constituents in The Showroom neighbourhood. Full details to be announced.



Oliver Ressler, *The last time there was as much carbon dioxide in the atmosphere as there is today, humans didn't exist*, digital print, 2020. Courtesy of the artist; àngels, Barcelona; The Gallery Apart, Rome

Barricading the Ice Sheets is supported by the **Austrian Science Fund (FWF: AR 526)**. The exhibition at The Showroom is supported by **Phileas: The Austrian Office for Contemporary Art** and **BMKOES: The Austrian Ministry of the Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport**. The Showroom is supported using public funding by **Arts Council England**.

Notes to Editors

About Oliver Ressler

Oliver Ressler is an artist and filmmaker who produces installations, projects in public space and films on issues encompassing economics, democracy, migration, the climate crisis, forms of resistance and social alternatives.

Solo exhibitions include the Berkeley Art Museum, USA; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Belgrade; Centro Cultural Conde Duque, Madrid; Alexandria Contemporary Arts Forum, Egypt; The Cube Project Space, Taipei; Kunsthaus Graz, Graz. Ressler has also had comprehensive solo exhibitions at Wyspa Institute of Art, Gdansk; Lentos Kunstmuseum, Linz; Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo – CAAC, Seville; SALT Galata, Istanbul; MNAC – National Museum of Contemporary Art, Bucharest; and Cultural Centre of Belgrade. Ressler has participated in group exhibitions at Museo Reina Sofía, Madrid; Van Abbe Museum, Eindhoven; MASSMoCA, North Adams, USA; Centre Pompidou, Paris; the biennials in Prague (2005), Seville (2006), Moscow (2007), Taipei (2008), Lyon (2009), Gyumri (2012), Venice (2013), Athens (2013, 2015), Quebec (2014), Helsinki (2014), Jeju (2017), Kyiv (2017), Gothenburg (2019) and Stavanger (2019); and at Documenta 14, Kassel, 2017 (exhibition organised by EMST).

Ressler has completed forty-one films to date, which have been screened in events as part of social movements, at art institutions and film festivals worldwide. A retrospective of his films took place at Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève in 2013. In 2002, Ressler won first prize at the International Media Art Award, ZKM in Karlsruhe and at the Prix Thun for Art and Ethics Award in 2016. For the Taipei Biennale 2008, Ressler curated an exhibition on the counter-globalization movement, *A World Where Many Worlds Fit*. A travelling show on the financial crisis, *It's the Political Economy, Stupid*, co-curated with Gregory Sholette, has been presented at nine venues internationally (2011-2016).

About Barricading the Ice Sheets

Barricading the Ice Sheets is a research endeavour by Oliver Ressler, supported by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF: AR 526) and Camera Austria, Graz, the research institution where the first exhibition of the cycle appeared (4 September – 21 November 2021)

Further configurations of *Barricading the Ice Sheets* have taken place as solo exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art Zagreb, Croatia (30 November 2021 – 6 February 2022), Neuer Berliner Kunstverein (n.b.k.), Berlin, Germany (4 June – 31 July 2022), Tallinn Art Hall, Tallinn, Estonia (27 August – 6 November 2022), LABoral Centro de Arte y Creación Industrial, Gijón, Spain, 28 January – 9 September 2023 and finally The Showroom, London, UK (18 April – 24 June 2023).

About The Showroom

The Showroom is a contemporary art space focused on collaborative approaches to cultural production within its locality and beyond. We commission and produce art and discourse; providing an engaging, collaborative programme that challenges what art can be and do for a wide range of audiences, including art professionals and local communities.

Our programme focuses on collaborative and process-driven approaches to production be that art work, exhibitions, events, discussions, publications, knowledge and relationships. Through major commissions and smaller projects The Showroom works with artists and other practitioners who have not previously had significant exposure in London, often introducing international artists to the UK, and working in partnership with other individuals and organisations within our networks, both at home and abroad.

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