THE DAYTON ART INSTITUTE PRESENTS SUMMER SUITE OF WATER-FOCUSED SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

The Antarctic Sublime & Elements of Nature: Water Open July 16

(DAYTON, OHIO) – July 7, 2016 – It’ll be a cool summer at The Dayton Art Institute, as the museum continues its “Year of the Classical Elements” with three contemporary installations, all relating to the element of water.

The Antarctic Sublime & Elements of Nature: Water will present large-scale photography, cutting-edge video art, and a display of 450 mechanized, interactive penguins that are sure to delight visitors of all ages. The special exhibitions open July 16 and will be on view through October 16.

No philosophical idea has captured the imagination of artists more than the sublime, which emerged as a concept in the first century CE writings of the Greek philosopher Longinus. It took greatest shape in the 18th century through the writings of philosophers Edmund Burke (1729 – 1797) and Immanuel Kant (1724 – 1804), whose collective works connect the sublime to an experience with something so boundless, grand, or dangerous that it inspires awe, fear, or veneration. Nature is one place where examples of the sublime abound, as visitors are often awe-struck by its monumentality and ferocity, as well as mankind’s small place within the universe.
“Organizing a series of exhibitions featuring 21st-century work that explores nature and the elements, where examples of the sublime abound, struck us as something extremely relevant, given the complex and evolving questions related to humans’ relationship with the natural world,” remarked the DAI’s Chief Curator, Dr. Aimee Marcereau DeGalan. “The sublime is a deeply personal and intimate interaction or reaction to nature, and to that end, this suite of exhibitions presents engaging and unique experiences.”

**The Antarctic Sublime, Gallery 119 (off Lower Court)**
The first installation of the summer suite presents *Penguins Mirror* (2015) by Daniel Rozin, whose *Snow Mirror* and *Brushed Metal Mirror* were guest favorites in the recent special exhibition *Into the Ether: Contemporary Light Artists*. A colony of 450 mechanized penguins designed by Rozin provides an interactive installation that responds to visitors. As creatures of the Antarctic terrain, and highly adaptive to life in water, the inclusion of the penguins fits the series thematically, providing an immersive and responsive environment for viewers, and offering an opportunity to further explore the Polar Regions and their climate shifts, ideas of natural selection and the randomness of genetic drift.

**Elements of Nature: Water, Gallery 209 (off Great Hall) & Gallery 118 (off Lower Court)**
In the second part of the special exhibitions, *Elements of Nature: Water*, two distinct installations will examine the concept of water in various forms.

In traditional Japanese painting and in Japanese woodblock prints, oceans, rivers, and bodies of water are expressed as a curvilinear series of lines. These lines give the impression of life, as though water itself were a living creature. It is from this premise that the contemporary Japanese ultra-technologist group teamLab drew inspiration for *Universe of Water Particles*, an over 10-foot digital waterfall rendered at five times that of full high definition. This digital work will be on display alongside Edo-period (1603–1868) *ukiyo-e* woodblock prints from The DAI’s extensive collection, to explore the encounter and navigation of space within both 2D and 3D work, which is a fundamental concept to teamLab.

In another gallery, a single, monumental photograph by contemporary Berlin-based artist Frank Thiel, of the Perito Moreno glacier, will be on display. Located in the Los Glaciares National Park in Patagonia, Argentina, this glacier is part of the third-largest ice cap in the world. Thiel has created large-format images to capture the immense scale of the 18-mile-long by three-mile-wide formation, which is one of the few glaciers in the world that is actually growing. Reasons abound yet simultaneously confound many scientists and researchers as to the glacier’s growth, and the debate remains one that is very relevant today. Thiel’s photograph makes viewers question the transient nature of what is around them, and it also provides the opportunity to discuss the fragility of humans in the face of nature’s awesome might.

The exhibitions are organized and curated by The Dayton Art Institute’s Chief Curator and Curator of European Art, Dr. Aimee Marcereau DeGalan.

“Visitors are still raving about our recent exhibition *Into the Ether*, and our curatorial team has created another one-of-kind experience with *The Antarctic Sublime & Elements of Nature: Water,*” says The Dayton Art Institute’s Director & CEO, Michael R. Roediger. “We guarantee you’ve never seen anything quite like this at The DAI, and both adults and children will be spellbound by these installations.”
The Antarctic Sublime & Elements of Nature: Water are presented with support from Patron Sponsors 21c Museum Hotel and DP&L Foundation; Supporting Sponsors Synchrony Financial and Wright State Research Institute; with additional support from City of Dayton, Department of Water, DEEM, Enting Water Conditioning Inc., Morris Furniture, School of Advertising Art, Taft/ and University of Dayton. Jefferson Patterson Society Reception Sponsors are Dayton Dental Collaborative and Bank of America.

A companion focus exhibition, Water in Japanese Art, will be on view in Gallery 105 of the Patterson-Kettering Wing of Asian Art. As an island nation, water is an important element in Japan and figures prominently in Japanese art. Japanese spiritual traditions have also shaped national attitudes towards nature and the relationship of individuals to the natural world. The Dayton Art Institute houses a strong collection of Edo-period (1603–1868) ukiyo-e woodblock prints and Japanese screen paintings, many of which feature water as a solid, liquid, or vapor. The depiction of water in its many forms in traditional Japanese art is enormously influential to teamLab, whose monumental digital waterfall is featured in Elements of Nature: Water. Works in this focus exhibition include such masters as Ando Hiroshige and Katsushika Hokusai, among many others.

A number of related events and programs will also be held in conjunction with the special exhibitions:

- Curatorial Conversations: Blue Streak, July 28, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- Super Saturday Family Day: Make a Splash!, August 13, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- Curatorial Conversations: The Antarctic Sublime & Elements of Nature: Water Tour, August 25, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- Super Saturday Family Day: Penguin Pandemonium!, September 10, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- Lecture: Mia Bennett, Ph.D. Polar Studies Scholar, “Emerging Connections and Disconnections in the Global Arctic”, September 15, 6:30 p.m.
- Lecture: Dr. Eric Hodgson, Director, Smale Interactive Visualization Center, Miami University, October 6, 6:30 p.m.

For more about The Antarctic Sublime & Elements of Nature: Water, call 937-223-4ART (4278) or visit www.daytonartinstitute.org/water.

Admission to The Antarctic Sublime & Elements of Nature: Water is free for museum members; $14 adults; $11 seniors (60+), students (18+ w/ID), active military and groups (10 or more); $6 youth (ages 7-17); and free for children (ages 6 & under). Prices include admission to the special exhibitions and the museum’s permanent collection. Tickets for the exhibition and related programs may be purchased at the museum’s Guest Services Desk or by phone at 937-223-4ART (4278) during regular hours, or online at www.daytonartinstitute.org.

Docent-led tours of the special exhibitions are available for individuals, groups and schools. For individual, group and college group tours, contact Donna Young at 937-512-0152 or dyoung@daytonart.org. For K-12 school tours, contact Nicole Lomax, at 937-223-4278, ext. 241 or schooltours@daytonart.org.
For more information about The Dayton Art Institute, visit www.daytonartinstitute.org or call 937-223-4ART (4278). Be sure to connect with The Dayton Art Institute on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest for additional information, behind-the-scenes photos and videos, and exclusive offers.

ABOUT THE DAYTON ART INSTITUTE
As one of the Miami Valley’s premier fine art museums, The Dayton Art Institute offers a full range of programming in addition to exhibiting its collection. Gallery hours are Wednesday – Saturday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon – 5 p.m., with extended hours until 8 p.m. on Thursdays. Suggested admission to the museum’s permanent collection is $8 adults, $5 seniors, active military and groups. Admission is free for museum members, students (18+ w/ID) and youth (17 and under). Some special exhibitions, programs and events may carry an additional charge and include admission to the museum’s permanent collection as part of that price. Free parking is available at the museum and the facility is fully accessible to physically challenged visitors. The DAI’s Museum Store is open during regular museum hours. Leo Bistro serves lunch Wednesday – Friday, 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Saturday, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., and Sunday, noon – 3 p.m. Leo Bistro also serves dinner on Thursday evenings, 4:30 – 8 p.m. For more information, please call 937-223-4ART (4278) or visit www.daytonartinstitute.org. The Ohio Arts Council helped fund this organization with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. The DAI also receives support from the Montgomery County Arts and Cultural District.

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