

Lean, Patti (2016) Augury, noctilucence and de-severance: uncanniness in northerly landscapes. In: NAFAE Conference: “Research Practice Practice Research’, 15-16 July 2016, Lancaster, UK. (Unpublished)

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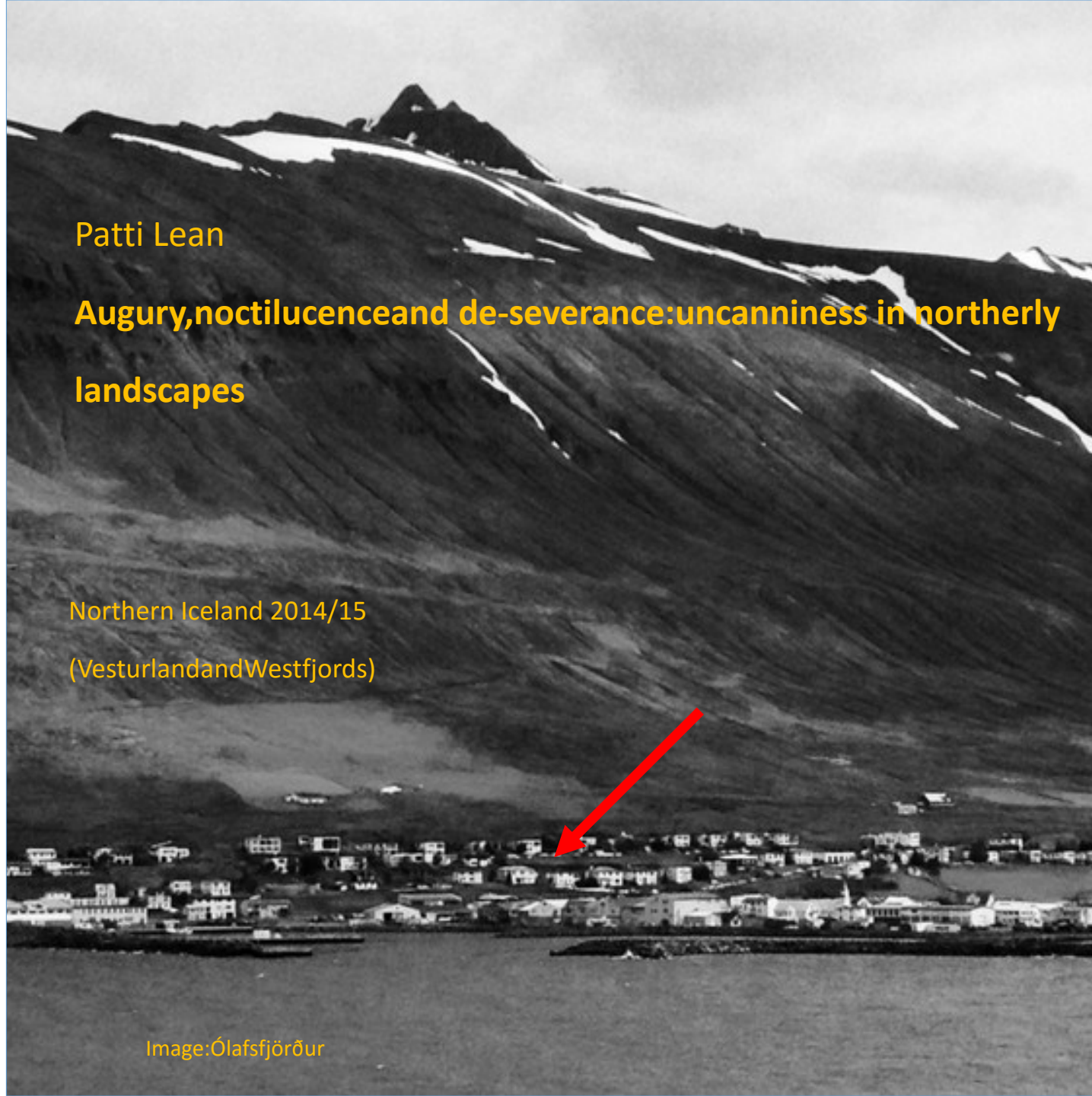
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Patti Lean

Augury, noctilucence and de-severance: uncanniness in northerly  
landscapes

Northern Iceland 2014/15  
(Vesturland and Westfjords)

Image: Ólafsfjörður



### Freud's Uncanny -*dasUnheimliche*

Something once familiar, then repressed, that now returns. (Freud, 2003 [1919]: 152, 154)

(examples include: when boundaries between reality and fantasy are blurred; being buried alive (return to the womb); severed limbs (castration complex); raising of the dead.



**noctilucent**., luminescence due to ice crystals in high altitude clouds, found in twilight sky in northerly latitudes.

*Eyrbyggjasaga* - Þórgunna



P. Lean 2015, Cumulo cirrus clouds over Snæfellsjökull, Iceland.

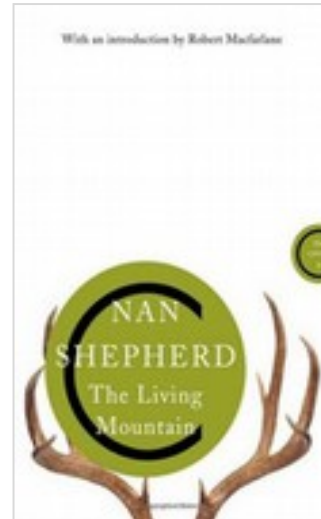
Digital photographs.

## Nan Shepherd (1893-1981)



Most works of mountain literature are written by men, and most of them focus on the goal of the summit. Nan Shepherd's aimless, sensual exploration of the Cairngorms is bracingly different.

Robert Macfarlane, 2008

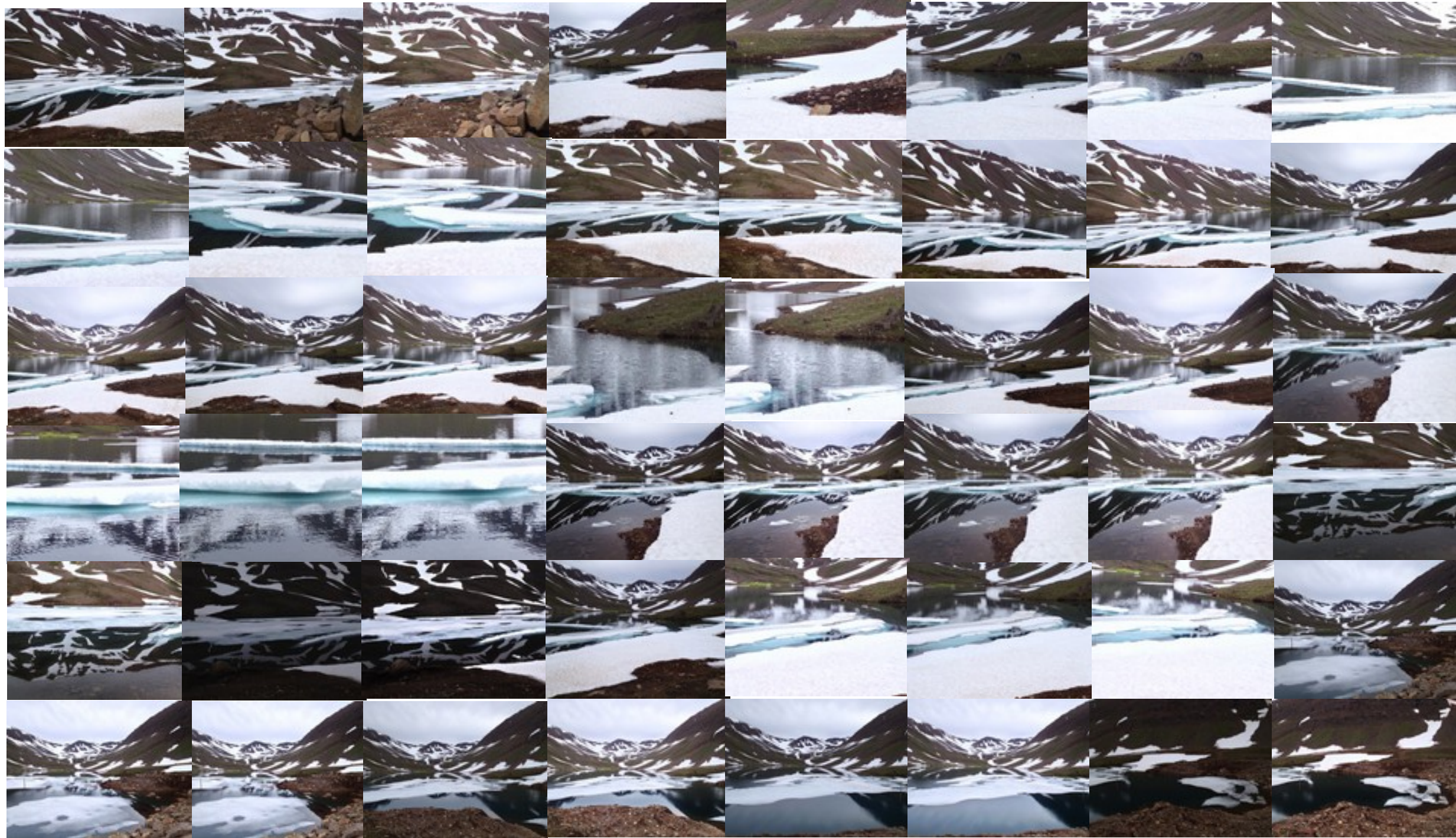


*The Living Mountain* (written c.1945, published 1977).

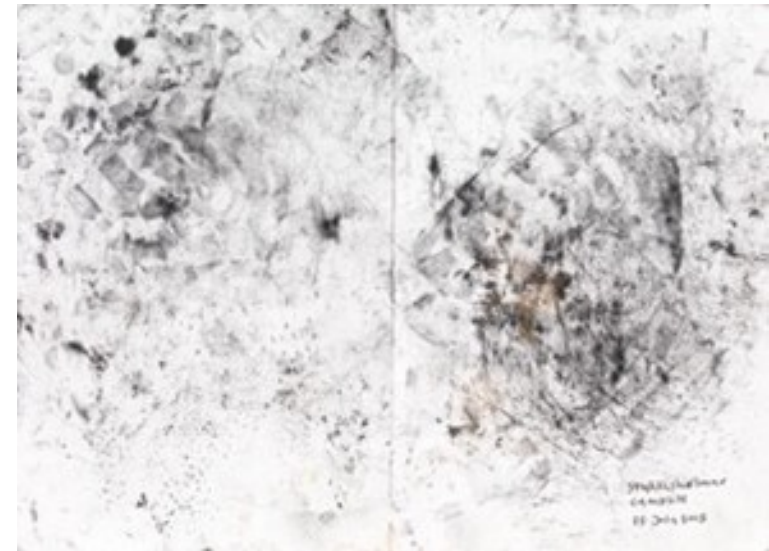
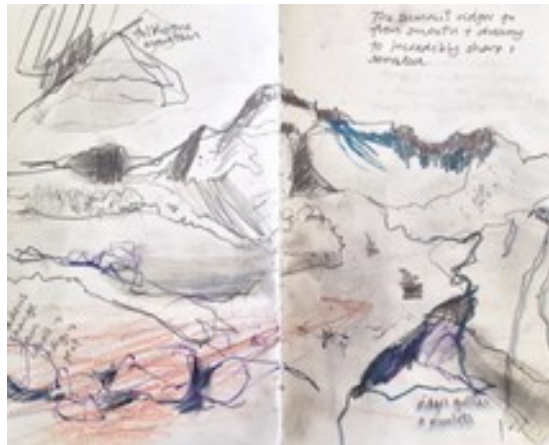
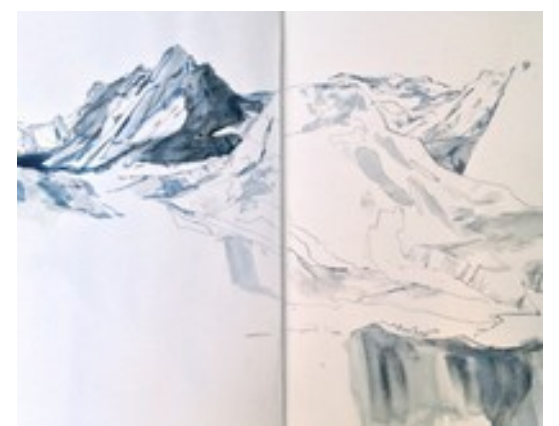
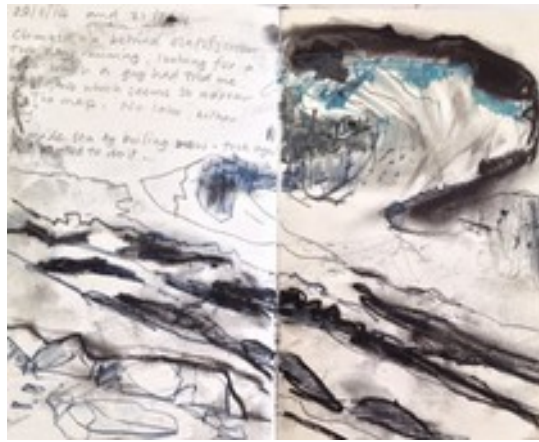


PhD question: Are Nan Shepherd's methodologies in nature-writing applicable to my contemporary art practice?









Humanity and nonhumanity have always performed an intricate dance with each other. There was never a time when human agency was anything other than an interlocking network of humanity and non-humanity; today this mingling has become harder to ignore.

(Bennett 2010: 31)

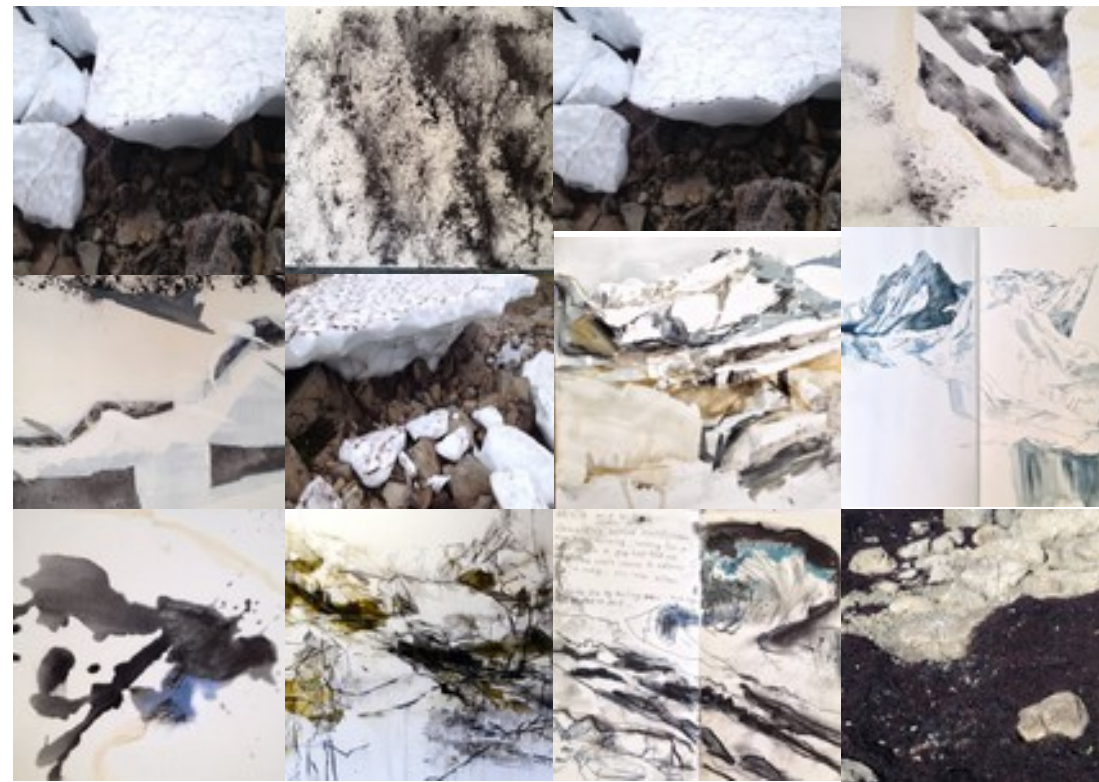
From sketchbooks 2014-15



*Ólafsfjörður Study*  
 (Limnology/Oceanology Series)  
 2014.  
 Watercolour and ink on paper.  
 Approx. 38 x 31cm.



*Ólafsfjörður, hiking study*  
 (Limnology/Oceanology Series)  
 2014  
 ink, acrylic, Japanese paper-collage and charcoal on canvas. 100 x 100cm.



Studies 2015



Heidegger's *deseverance* (*Ent-fernung* or *Entfernung*, literally 'the removal of distance')



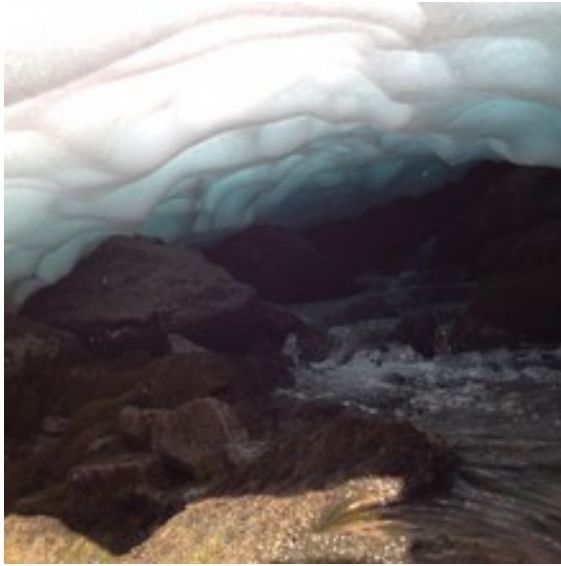


*ÓlafsfjörðurStudy2016*. Mixed media (watercolour, wax, ash) on paper. 46 x 31cm



*ÓlafsfjörðurStudy2016*. Watercolour, wax and ash on paper. 35 x 26cm





(i) (ii)



in the mountain, not on..

A mountain has an inside [...]

(Shepherd, 1977: 16)

It seems to me then that I could never go back; my fear unmans me, horror is in my mouth.

(Shepherd 1977: 6)

Something moves between me and it. Place and a mind may interpenetrate till the nature of both is altered.

(Shepherd 1977:8)

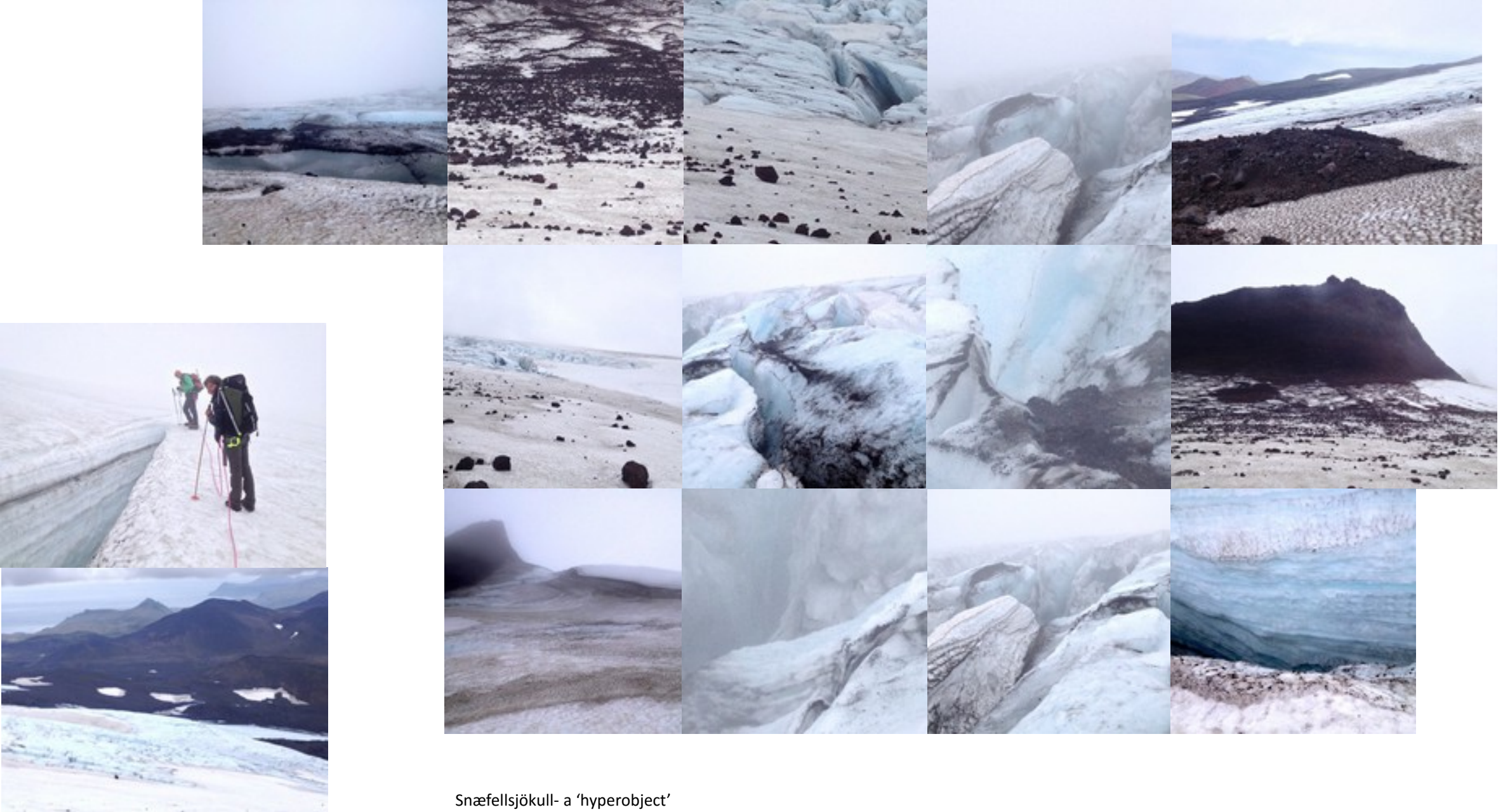


(iii)(iv)



(i) Snow-bridge near Ólafsfjörður, 2014, photograph.

(ii) (iii) (iv) Studies, 2016. Watercolour and mixed media on paper



Snæfellsjökull- a 'hyperobject'

Glacier and setting for novels Jules Verne (1864)*Journey to the Centre of the Earth* and Halldór Laxness (1972)*Under the Glacier*.





***Snæfellsjökull: what you have stolen can never be yours***

2015

mixed media on canvas

190 x 170cm framed dimensions



Studio view, work-in-progress:

2015

***SnaefellsjökullIII:Úa'sJourney***

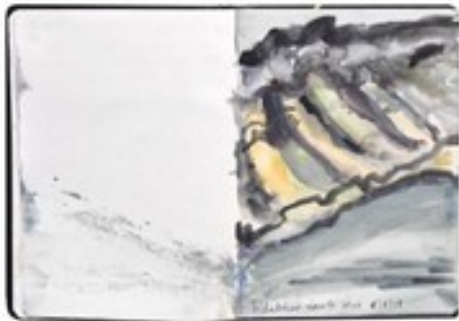
mixed media on canvas, 190 x 170cm

framed dimensions.



**Augury**(ancient Greece and Rome) the art and science of observing and interpreting omens through observing natural phenomena, often birds and bird-flight.





Sketchbook field studies  
in watercolour

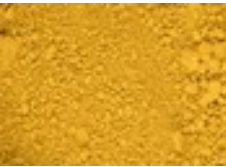




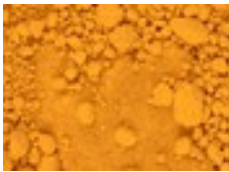
Paint as material



Red oxide



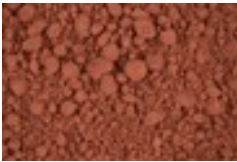
Yellow ochre



Spanish Gold ochre



Armenian porphyry



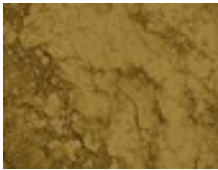
Mummy red



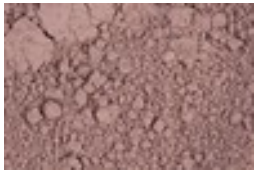
Felsite  
yellow



Raw Umber



Green earth



Light violet porphyry



Armenian green  
earth



Cobalt blue



Cobalt turquoise



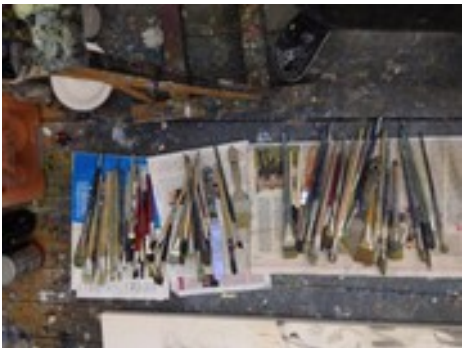
Cobalt green extra  
deep



Cobalt green light



Black graphite



Matter wants form and - providentially – form wants to share itself.

(Bucklow, 2009: 80)

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