

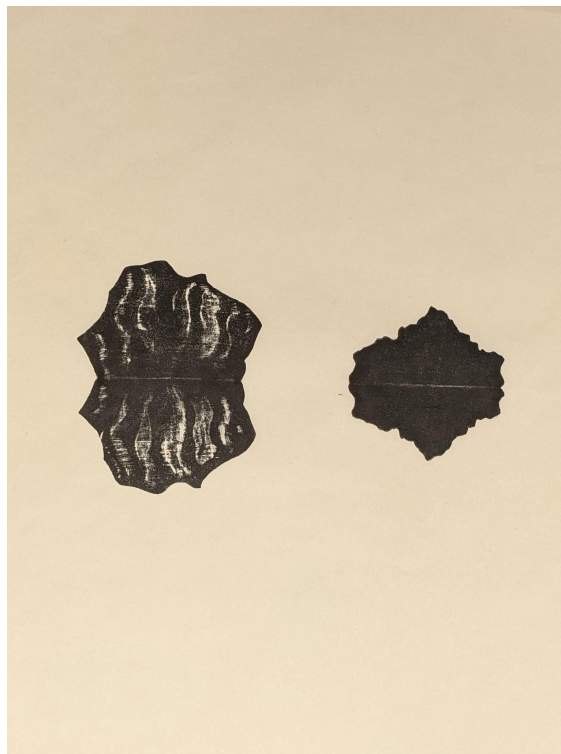


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Debra Salopek: *Fallen Pieces of the Moon*
March 30–May 14, 2023
Tusen Takk Channel at Commongrounds, 2nd Fl, Traverse City, MI



Debra Salopek, from the *black iceberg series*, 2022. Woodcut, oil-based ink on Japanese gampi paper, 17 x 21 inches

TUSEN TAKK FOUNDATION - 5560 Leland Woods Drive - Leland, MI 49654
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The Tusen Takk Channel presents Debra Salopek: *Fallen Pieces of the Moon*, an exhibition of woodcut prints by Salopek created during her winter 2022 residency. On view at Commongrounds, the exhibition takes its title from a passage in author Barry Lopez's book *Arctic Dreams* in which he refers to Arctic icebergs as "fallen pieces of the moon." Borrowing this metaphor, Salopek offers her own poetic interpretations of icebergs here on our Great Lakes.

Coming to Michigan from the Southwest, Salopek was instantly fascinated by the ice formations on the Lake Michigan shoreline during the coldest winter months. Her residency project was inspired by icebergs, as well as artists' depictions of them throughout art history, from Frederic Edwin Church's *The Icebergs*, 1861 to the Inuit print collection at the nearby Denmos Museum. A print by Lucy Meeko from the Denmos collection had a significant impact on Salopek's concept, sparking an interest in depicting iceberg forms in a nonrepresentational manner and in using woodcuts as her medium.

Salopek's process continued to evolve during her residency, as she experimented with using subtle bisecting lines to suggest a mirrored image and printing the icebergs in dark hues. The deep black tones not only provide a striking contrast but also reference our planet's disappearing glaciers and shrinking ice sheets. And yet, the works are ultimately more concerned with formal elements than with what they represent. With shapes open to interpretation, Salopek's graphic and visually captivating images embody the poetics of mystery as much as the nature of icebergs themselves.

ARTIST BIO

Born in California, raised in Mexico, Debra Salopek grew up bilingual, straddling 2 cultures. She received her BFA from the University of New Mexico in printmaking and drawing, has traveled and lived abroad for several years and makes the American Southwest her primary home. Debra worked as a fine art printmaker in Los Angeles, CA collaborating with artists such as Alex Katz, Robert Mangold, Silvia Plimack Mangold, Robert Therrien and others, before dedicating full time to her studio with a focus on painting and work on paper. She has exhibited nationally with work in corporate collections and museums; she is currently represented by the William Havu Gallery in Denver, CO, and the Kiechel Fine Art Gallery, in Lincoln, NE.

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ABOUT THE TUSEN TAKK CHANNEL

The Tusen Takk Channel: An Artist Engagement Series at Commongrounds features the work of Tusen Takk’s artists-in-residence in rotating exhibitions and live programs at Commongrounds in downtown Traverse City.

An artist-in-residence “making place,” Tusen Takk offers three to six week-long solo residencies to artists in a diverse range of disciplines. During their stay, artists have complete access to the beauty of Lake Michigan and enjoy 24/7 access to the Foundation’s unparalleled working studios.

“Tusen Takk” means “thousand thanks” in Norwegian and is often used to convey appreciation for something received, like a wonderful dinner or a helping hand. It’s with this same sense of gratitude and grace that the founders established the Tusen Takk Foundation; an expression of thankfulness to artists, writers, and composers for the transcendent truth and intangible joy they give back to the world in their work.

Nestled into the quiet, forested dunes of Lake Michigan north of Leland, Tusen Takk was designed by world-renowned architect Peter Bohlin.

For more information, visit tusementak.org.