

Xavier Cortada, Arctic Ice Painting | "90N-08," 12" x 9", North Pole sea ice, acrylic, and mixed media on paper, 2008

90N
Xavier Cortada



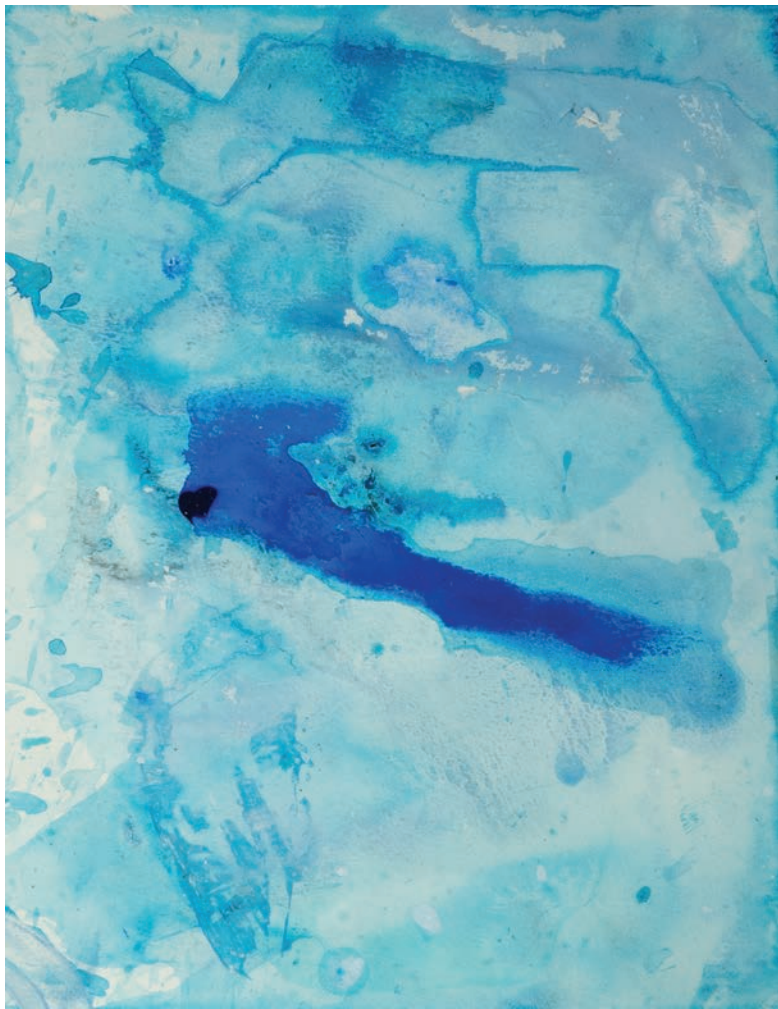
Arctic Ice Painting | N-17



Arctic Ice Painting | N-19

Ninety Degrees North (90N)

On June 29th, 2008, Xavier Cortada arrived at the North Pole (90N) to create ritualistic installations addressing global climate change and the melting polar caps. One of Cortada's performances included a ritual where he fed his fellow travelers aboard a Russian icebreaker pieces of ice he collected at the North Pole, thereby integrating the North Pole into their very being. "I figured that if they ingested a piece of the North Pole, it would become part of them." said Cortada. "The North Pole water molecules would be swirling through their bodies. The North Pole atoms would be incorporated into their very cells. My sense was that after having North Pole communion, they would protect the North Pole. If nothing else, they would do so for self-preservation."

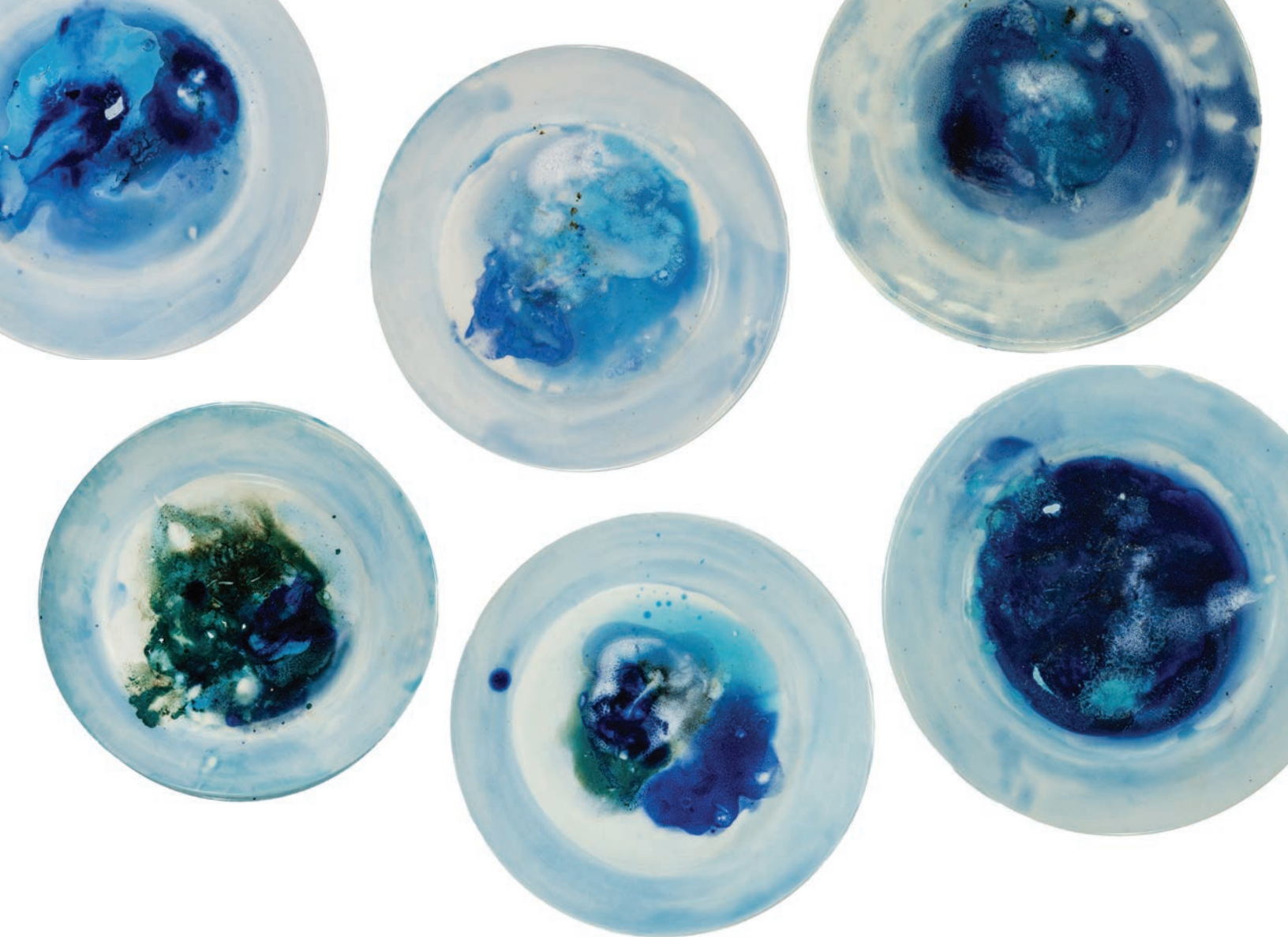


Arctic Ice Painting | N-20



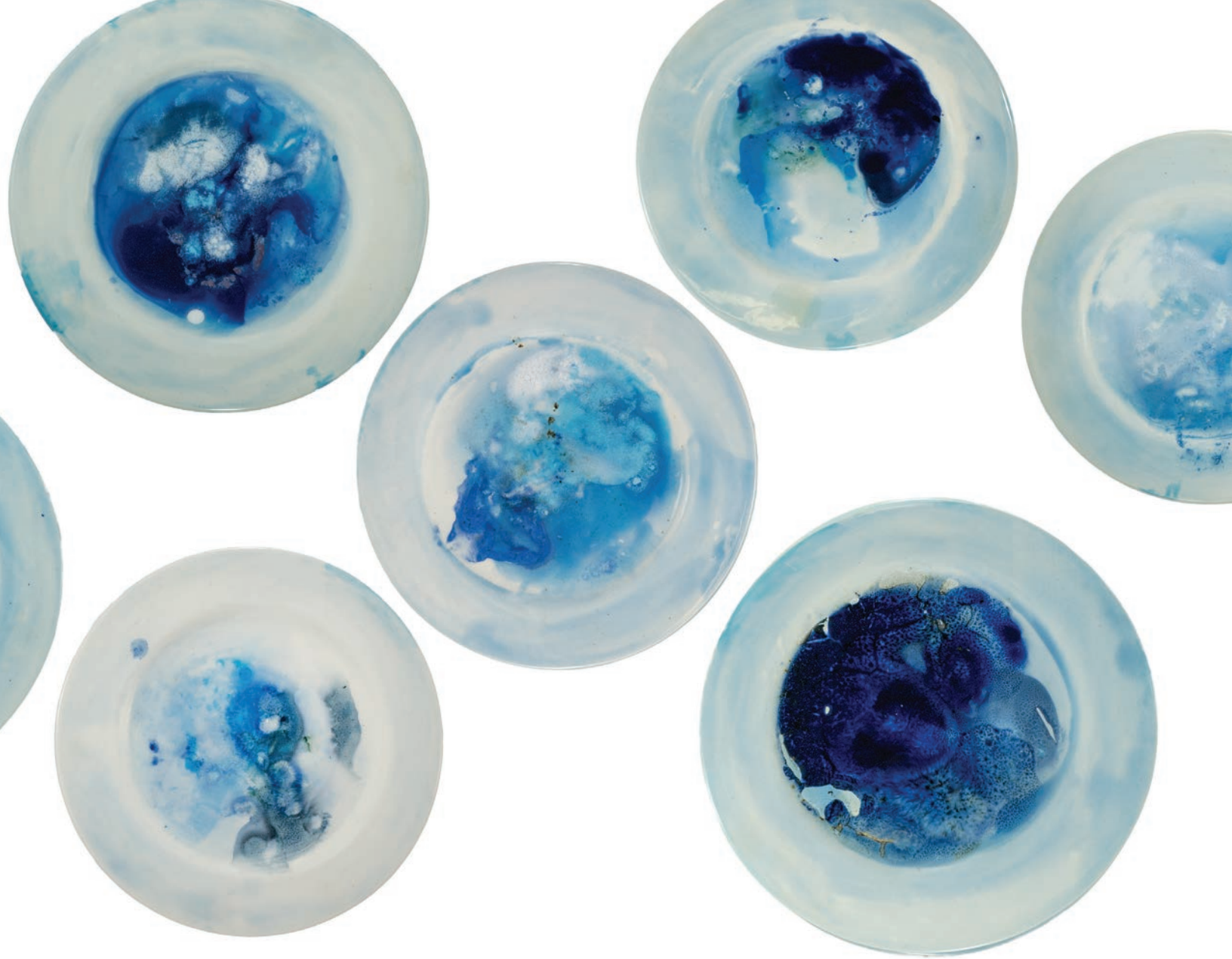
Arctic Ice Painting | N-21

Cortada also taped pieces of paper to the top deck of the icebreaker. He then placed North Pole sea ice and paint on the pieces of paper. As the icebreaker made its way south from 90 degrees North, the ice melted and created his Arctic ice paintings. The North Pole works also included the reinterpretation of his 2007 South Pole (National Science Foundation Antarctic Artists and Writers Program) "Longitudinal Installation" and "Endangered World" ritualistic installations at the Earth's northernmost point, and the launch of Native Flags, a participatory ecoart project to engage others in reforesting the world below. Cortada created art at the extreme ends of the planet to address issues of global climate change at every point in between.



As the Arctic Melts

Ten years ago, Cortada's ice breaker easily pushed through the then-thinning polar ice, surprising the crew at its early arrival in the North Pole. Arctic warming has since continued melting sea ice at frightening speed: "Within two decades" stated the artist, "I may be able to repeat the journey on a sailboat, because scientists tell us the Arctic Ocean will be ice-free during summer. Global Climate Change will not just melt the Arctic, it will irrevocably change the world below.



"I bring this exhibition to the people of Florida to draw the alarming connection between the Arctic and our peninsula," said Cortada. "Melting ice will have catastrophic effects across our state and weaken the Gulf Stream. Arctic warming will lead to sea level rise, more coastal flooding, prolonged heatwaves, relentless rain, stalled tropical storms, extreme weather and more intense fire seasons."



Xavier Cortada, "Native Flags: North Pole," 2008.

About the Artist

Xavier Cortada's science art practice is oriented toward social engagement and the environment. He often collaborates with scientists in his art-making:

He has worked with population geneticists to explore our ancestral journeys out of Africa 60,000-years ago, with molecular biologists to synthesize a DNA strand from a sequence 400 museum visitors randomly generated, and with botanists to develop multi-year participatory eco-art efforts to reforest mangroves, native trees and wildflowers across Florida.

At CERN, Cortada worked with a physicist to develop a permanent site-specific art installation capturing the five search strategies used at that location to discover the Higgs boson. At **Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest**, he worked with hydrologists on a water cycle visualization project driven by real-time data collected at a watershed in New Hampshire's White Mountains.

Working with the **Florida Coastal Everglades LTER** team at **Florida International University**, where he served as visiting faculty and artist-in-residence from 2011-2018, Cortada developed works depicting the glass shells of diatoms preserved in sedimentary core samples studied by scientists to grow our understanding of sea level rise in South Florida.

The Miami artist has worked with groups globally to produce numerous collaborative art projects, including environmental installations at the **North Pole** and **South Pole** peace murals in **Cyprus** and **Northern Ireland**, child welfare murals in **Bolivia** and **Panama**, AIDS murals in **Switzerland** and **South Africa**, juvenile justice murals and projects in **Miami** and **Philadelphia**, and eco-art projects in **Taiwan**, **Hawaii**, and **Holland**.

Cortada has also been commissioned to create art for **CERN**, the **White House**, the **World Bank**, **Florida Botanical Gardens**, **Miami City Hall**, **Miami-Dade County Hall**, the **Florida Turnpike**, **Miami-Dade Housing Authority**, the **Frost Science Museum**, **Museum of Florida History**, and the **Frost Art Museum**.

His work is in the permanent collections of the **Perez Art Museum Miami (PAMM)**, the **NSU Museum of Art** in Ft. Lauderdale, the **Whatcom Museum**, the **Patricia and Philip Frost Art Museum**.

Cortada's studio is located at **Pinecrest Gardens** where he serves as artist-in-residence, implements his participatory art projects and runs the **Hibiscus Gallery**. The artist also serves on boards of various national, regional and local groups, including: **University of Miami Alumni Association**, **South Arts** and the **Miami-Dade Cultural Affairs Council**.

Cortada was born in Albany, New York and grew up in Miami from the age of three. He holds three degrees from the **University of Miami**: Bachelor of Arts, **College of Arts and Sciences** (1986), Master of Public Administration, **Miami Business School** (1991) and Juris Doctor, **School of Law** (1991).

Learn more at www.cortada.com.



Xavier Cortada, Arctic Ice Painting | "90N-22," 12" x 9", North Pole sea ice, acrylic, and mixed media on paper, 2008



11000 Red Road
Pinecrest, FL 33156
www.pinecrestgardens.org
305.669.6990
[@pinecrest_gardens](https://www.instagram.com/pinecrest_gardens)



Design: Adam Pascale and Michelle Hammontree



Hibiscus Gallery

www.hibiscusgallery.com
info@hibiscusgallery.com
[@hibiscusgallery](https://www.instagram.com/hibiscusgallery)



Xavier Cortada

www.cortada.com
xavier@cortada.com
[@XCortada](https://www.instagram.com/XCortada)



© 2018 Xavier Cortada