

ancestral bodies

lorenzo poli

curated by Samia Ashraf

in collaboration with
The Norwegian Water Resources
and Energy Directorate (NVE)



NVE

www.lorenzopoli.photography

Ancestral Bodies invites us into the realm of glacial life of the Anthropocene epoch. An expansive exhibition that unveils the sublime morphogenetic processes; formed by the interplay of phase changes and tectonic shifts - where the impact of human activity has been the dominant influence on the Earth's geology and ecosystems.

Deciphering the emergence of the deepest layers of the world's glacial ice, has become the focus for Lorenzo Poli, an award-winning Italian photographer and former architect at Foster+Partners. Poli's multidisciplinary research delves into glaciological science, while engaging with experiential modes, from the visual to the spiritual, he seeks to fathom matter's infinite states.

The investigation is a collaboration with Liss Andreassen, a leading glaciologist at the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE) and art curator Samia Ashraf. Over long campaigns in 2021 and 2022, Poli embarks in solo expeditions in remote regions of Norway, traversing deglaciated lands and kayaking through ice-melt lakes to reach the glacial limbs. By harnessing the digital potential of hand-held and aerial captures, a spectrum of ethereal perspectives of geodesic time and cosmic particles emerges, as ice cyclically transitions from solid to liquid to sublime.

Imbued with the history of the Earth, the Land morphs into a canvas of the divine, with hues nuanced by time. Glacial bodies lay bare the cosmic rhythm of the solar system synchronicity, and echoes the unwavering serenity of Gandhi's Satyagraha, while resonating with the power of self-transformation that lies within each of us. The synergy of shareholders materialises in an immersive touring installation, comprising 30 large photographic pieces (measuring up to 1.5m x 2.25m), NVE dissemination and educational material, a video performance and an art monograph.

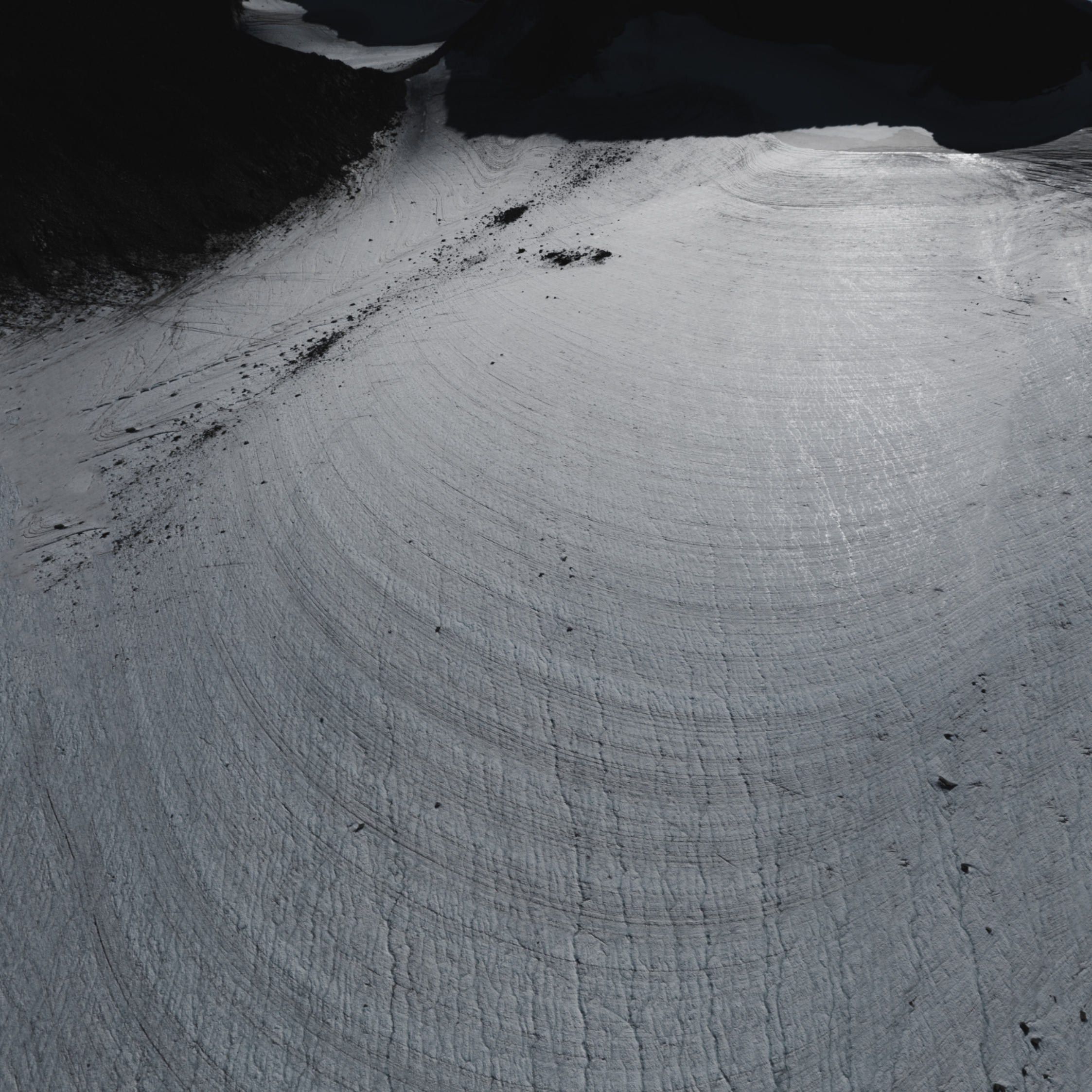
Amidst the sanctuary of a vanishing wilderness, a renewed kinship with the natural world is nurtured. A profound ecological shift beckons for biocentric equality and harmonious reconciliation, as envisioned by the philosopher Arne Naess. In response to the Anthropocene, **Ancestral Bodies** becomes a testament to the inexhaustible power and boundless magnanimity of Nature.

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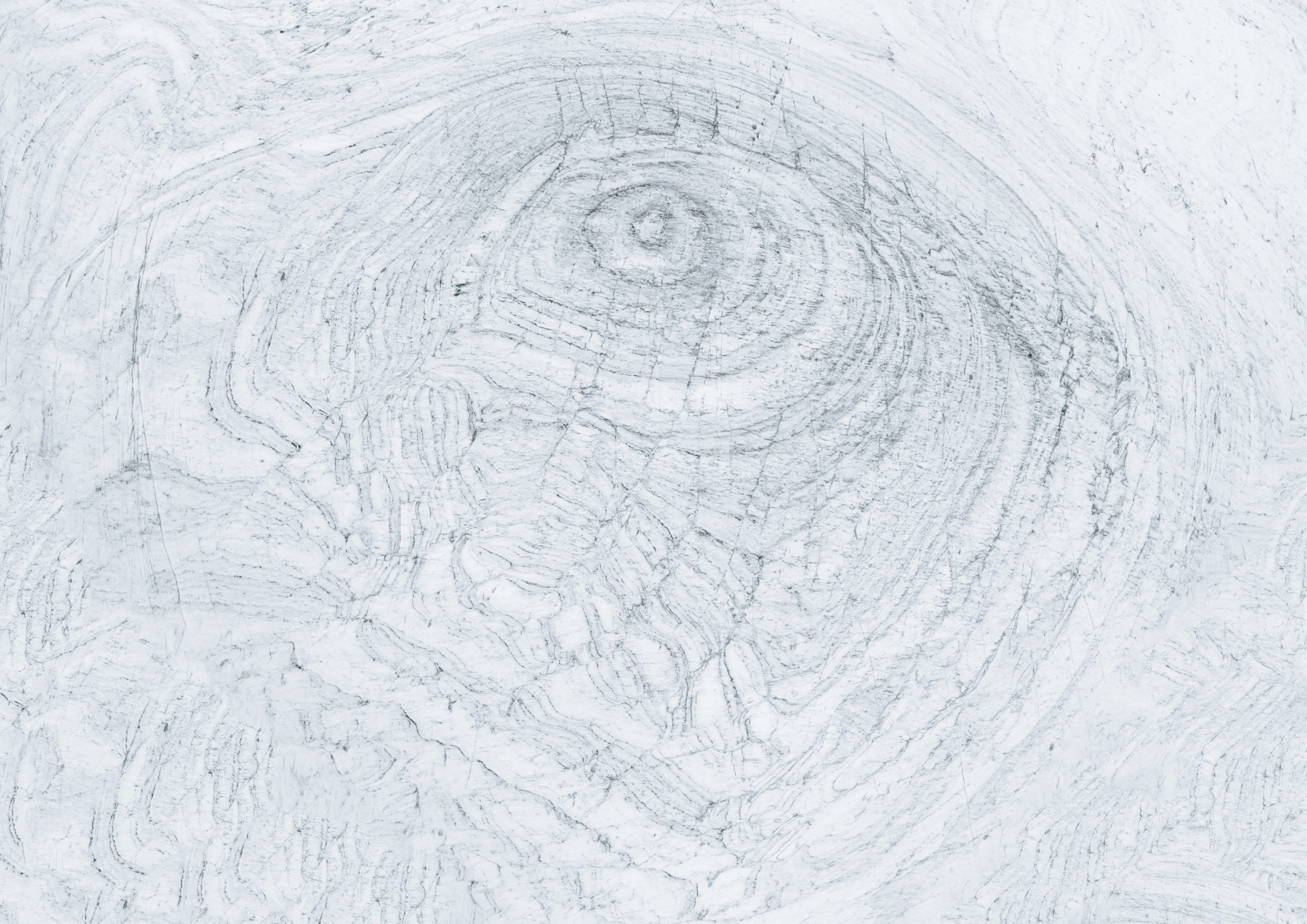




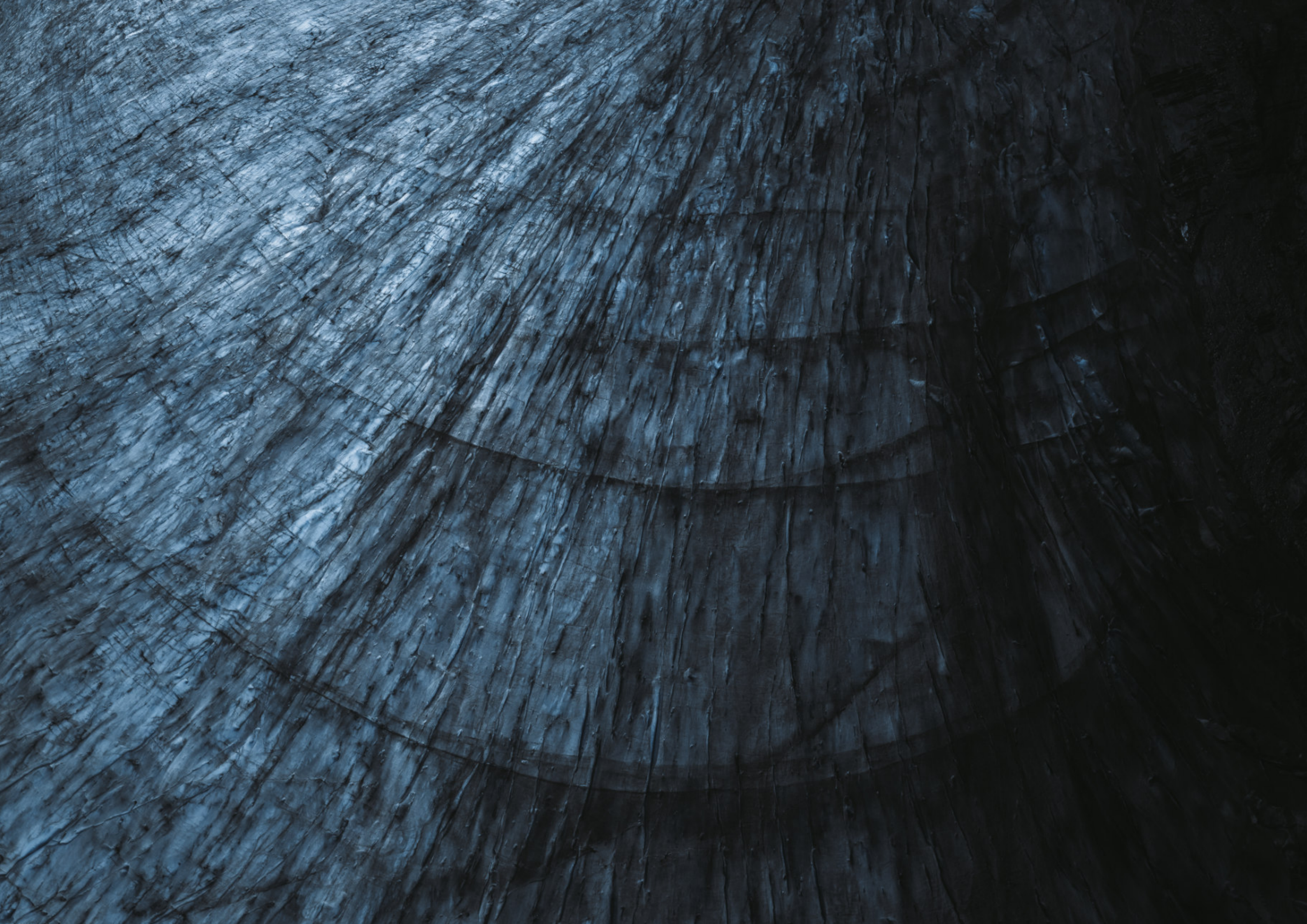


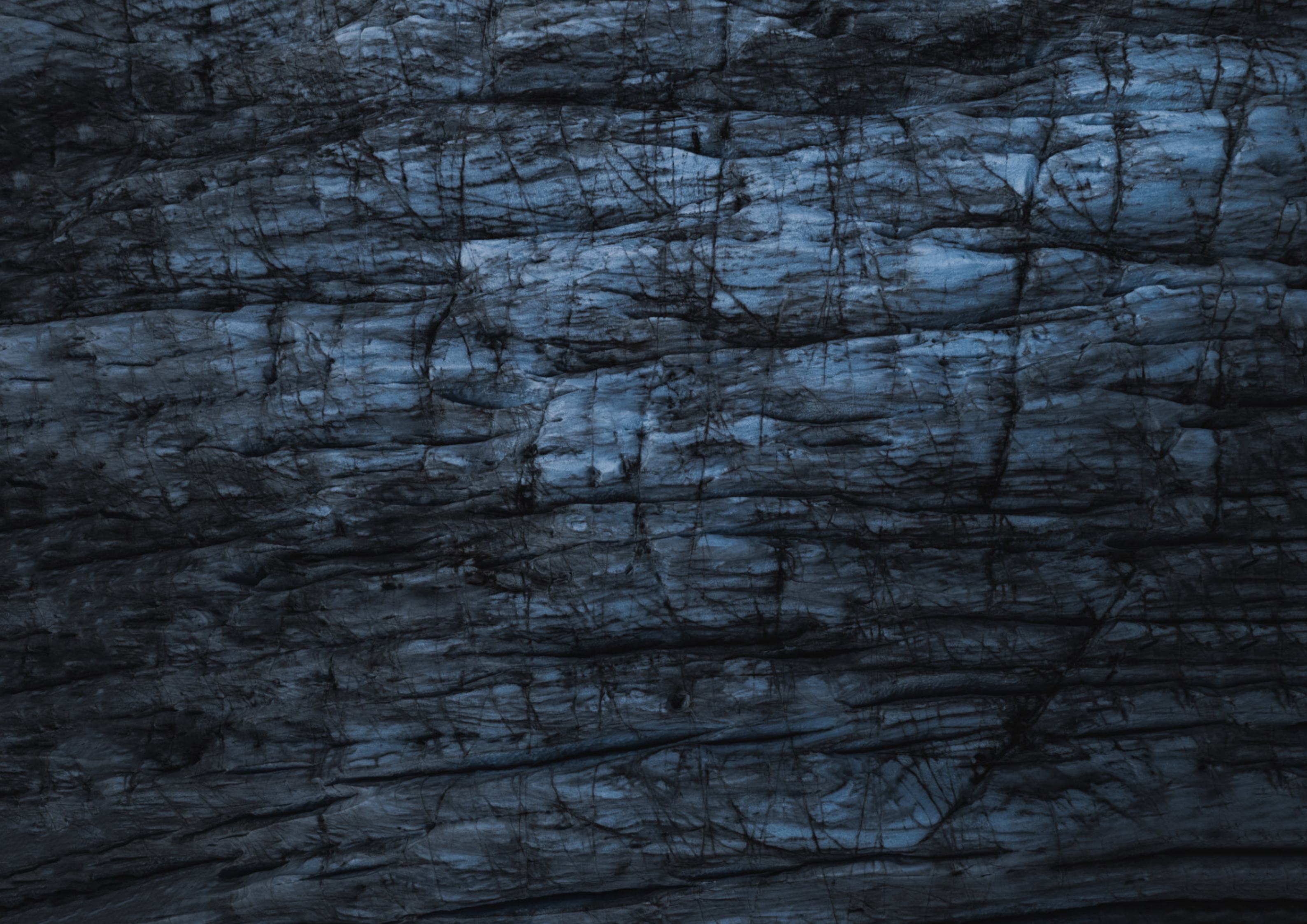


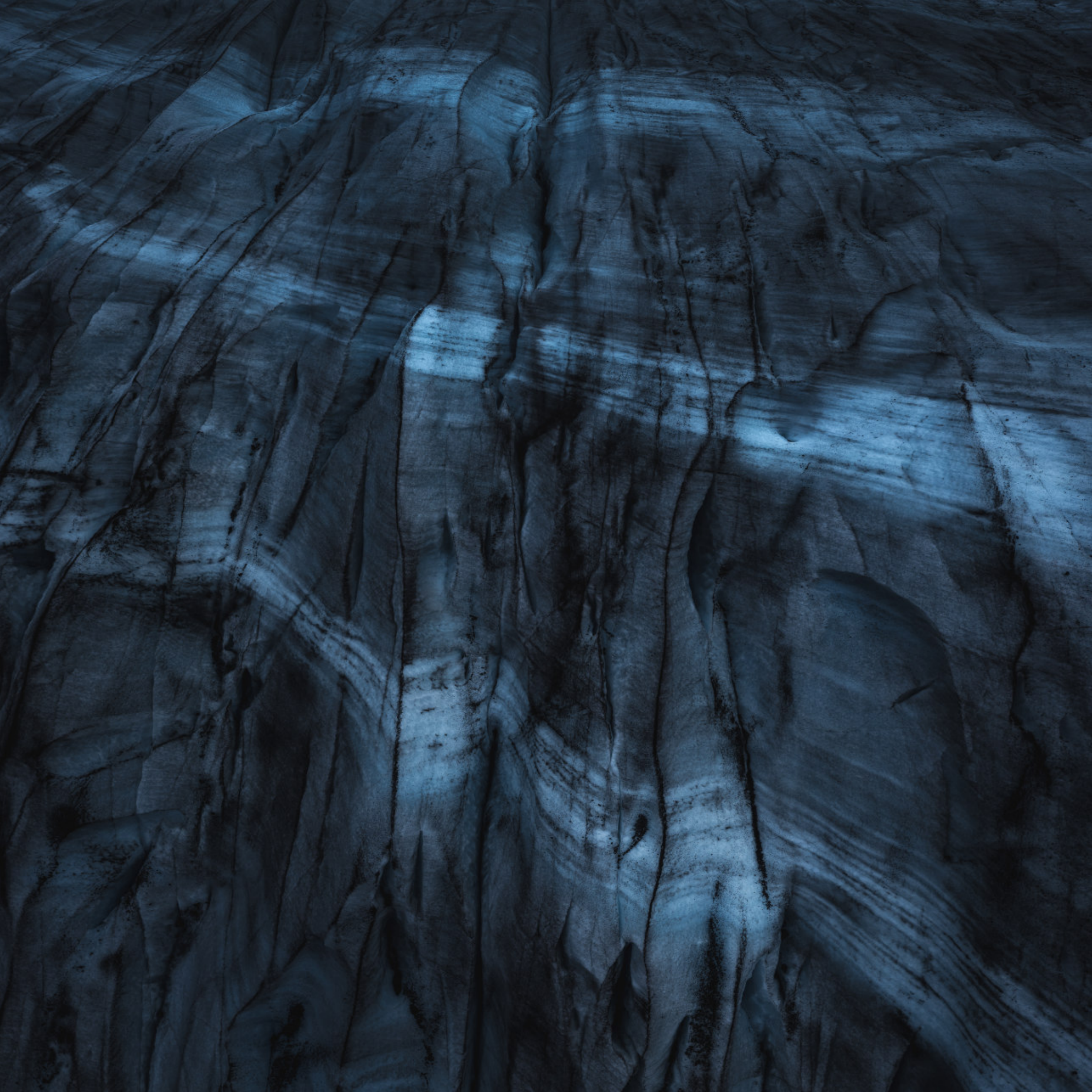


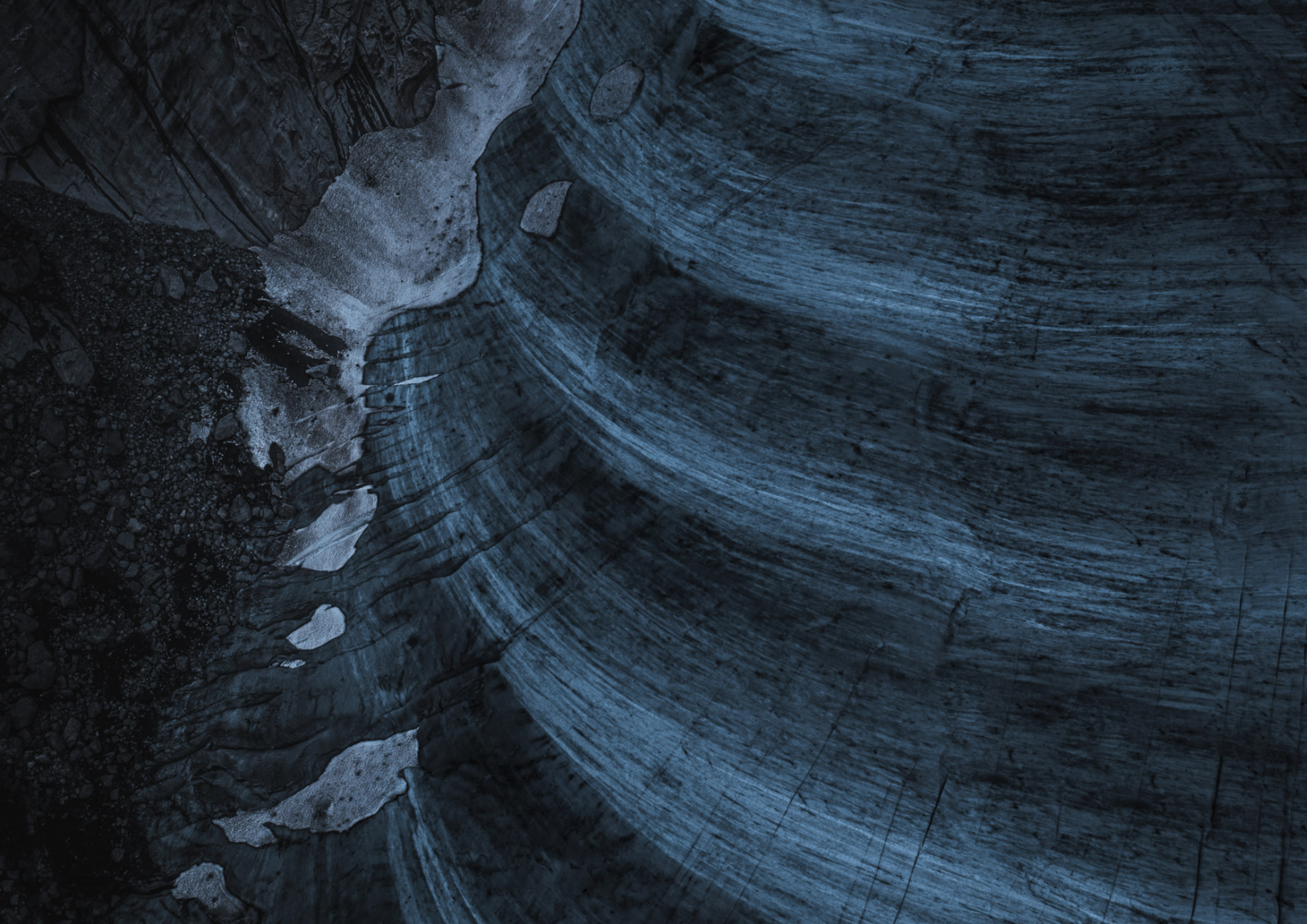






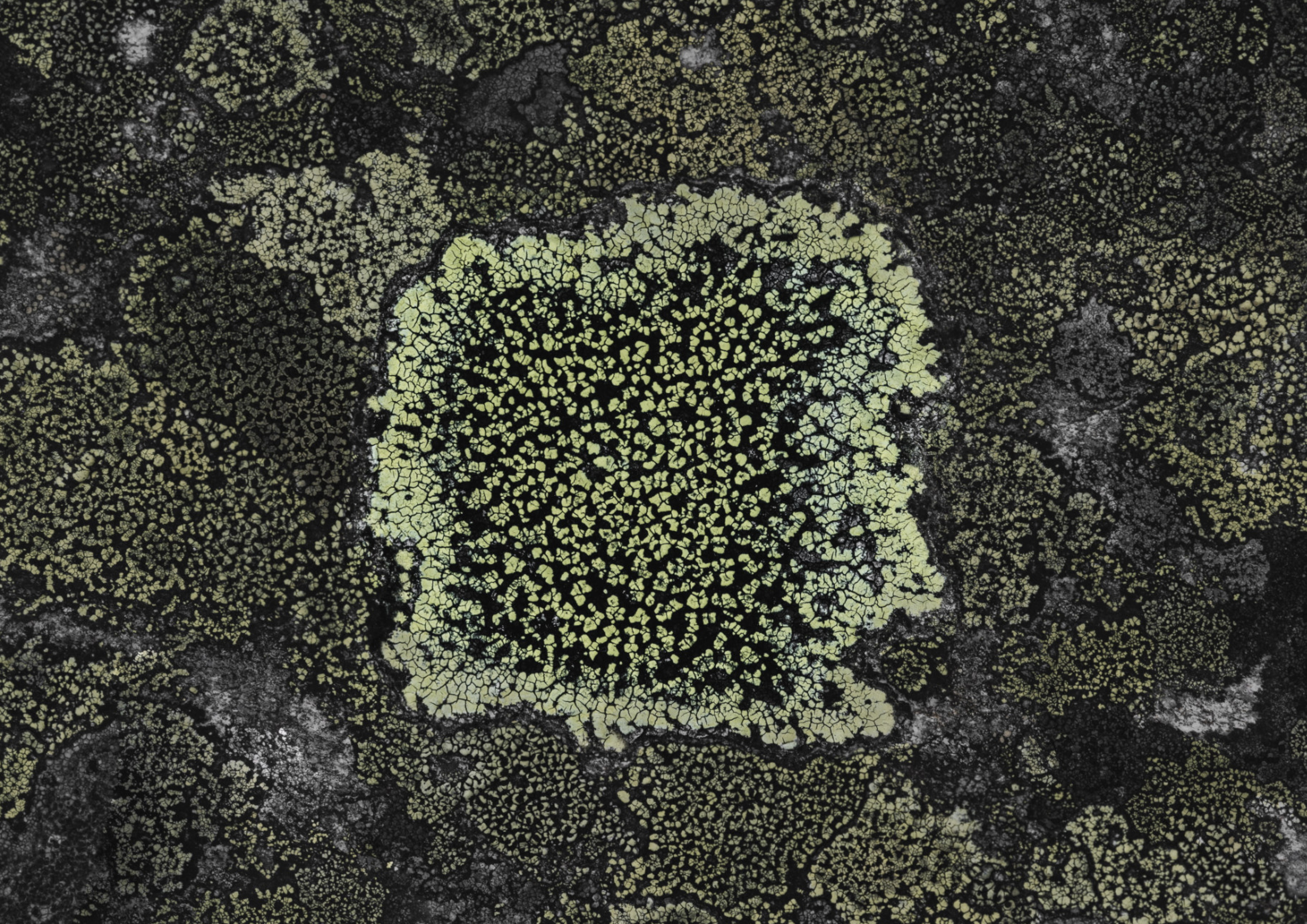














exhibition & dissemination

Art has long been recognised as powerful medium of communication. It transcends linguistic barriers, resonates with our senses, ignites conversations and often compels action. Through its universal visual language, **Ancestral Bodies** aims to become a catalyst, stimulating dialogue geared towards societal change.

The exhibition will launch in Oslo, featuring three distinct installations. The first is an awe-inspiring video display projected onto the wall of the acclaimed Opera House, turning the iconic building into a canvas with stunning visuals from the glacial realm. Simultaneously, the touring pavilion will be set up within the city, providing visitors with an immersive experience of the glacial world. Complementing these installations, a permanent public art feature will contribute to Oslo's vibrant arts scene.

Following its launch in Oslo, the **Ancestral Bodies** touring pavilion will commence its second dissemination phase, journeying across various locations in Norway, and in the Scandinavian peninsula, transported by a low emission electric truck for minimal CO2 emission and environmental impact.

The unique photo collection will also have the opportunity to be hosted by esteemed institutions as universities, galleries, and museums around the Scandinavian peninsula and Europe; notably in Oslo, the Climate House (Natural History Museum), the Preus Museum and the Fotografihuset. Moreover, plans are underway to further expand this expansive exhibition to Italy, Spain, and Germany through institutional partnerships, thus bringing **Ancestral Bodies** to a wider European audience.

phase 1 | Oslo launch

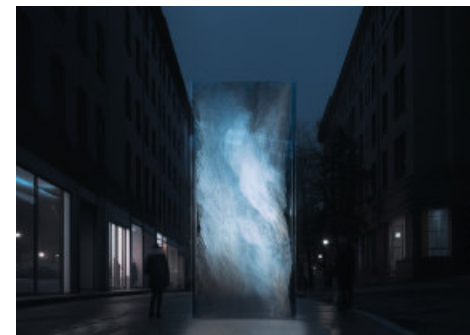
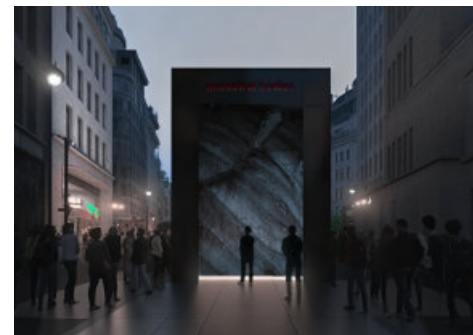
city video installation

+

touring pavilion

+

permanent public art



phase 2 | dissemination

touring photo collection and/or touring pavilion



Norway National Parks Visitors Centres
& Bre Museum

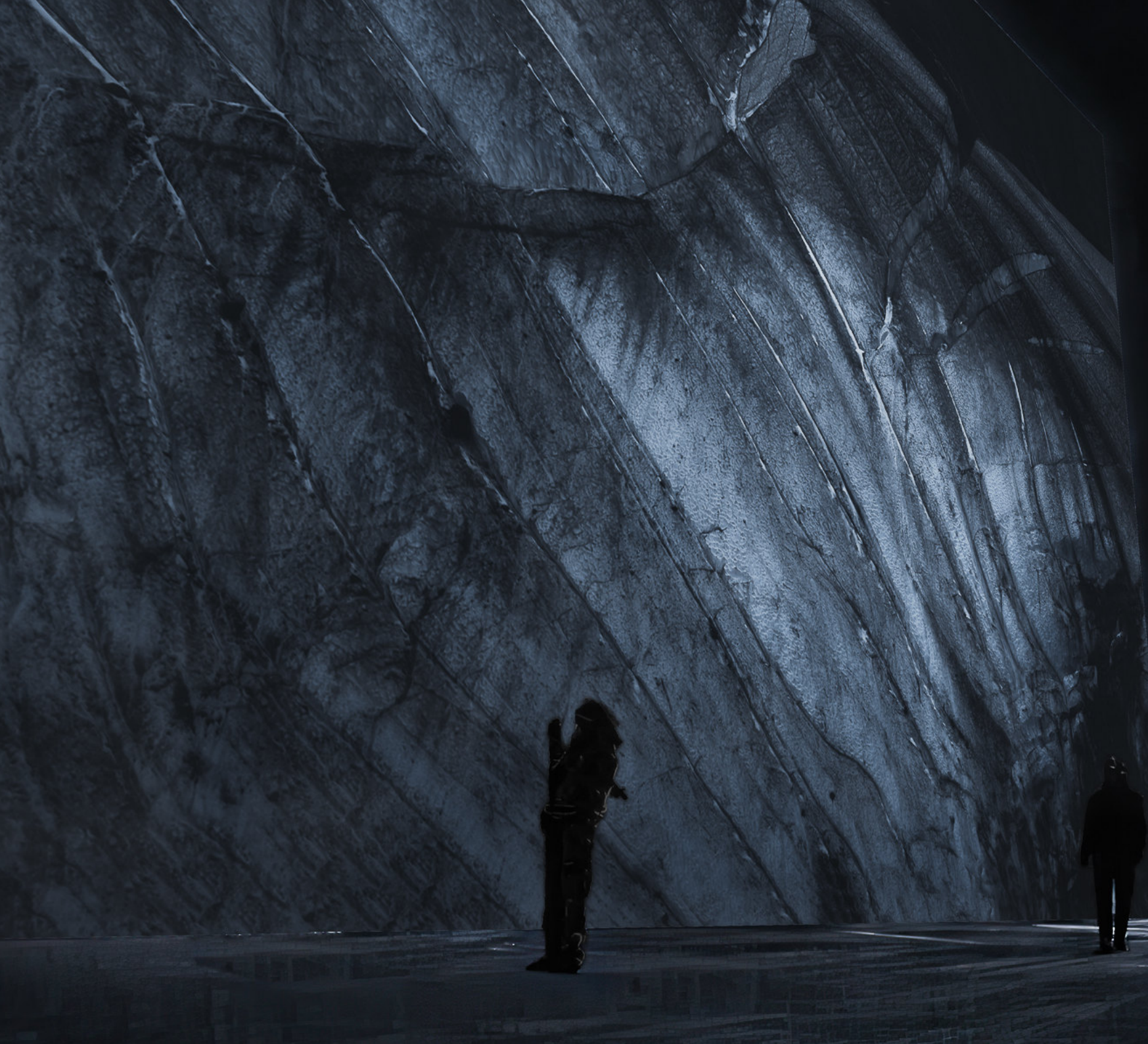


Climate Museum

Europe



Universities & Museums



launch with concurrent events



Oslo launch | video installation



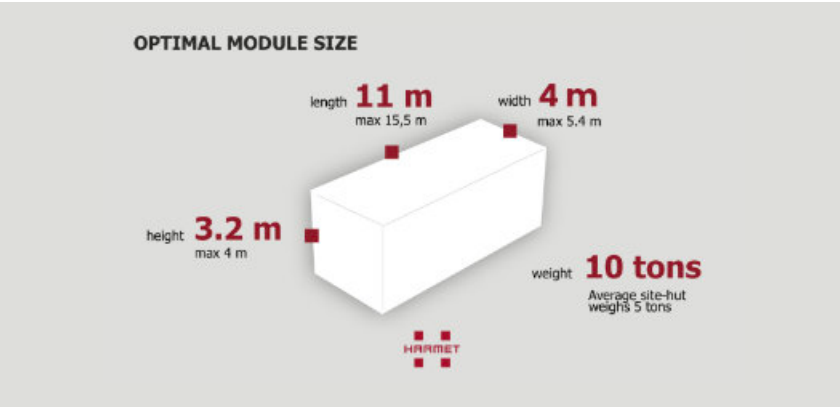
ancestral bodies

touring pavilion in Oslo

The touring pavilion would be designed as a lightweight prefabricated portable timber module, to be able to be loaded on an electric truck for transport amongst cities to allow for artistic and scientific dissemination. Powered by solar panels to provide lighting for night time exhibition.



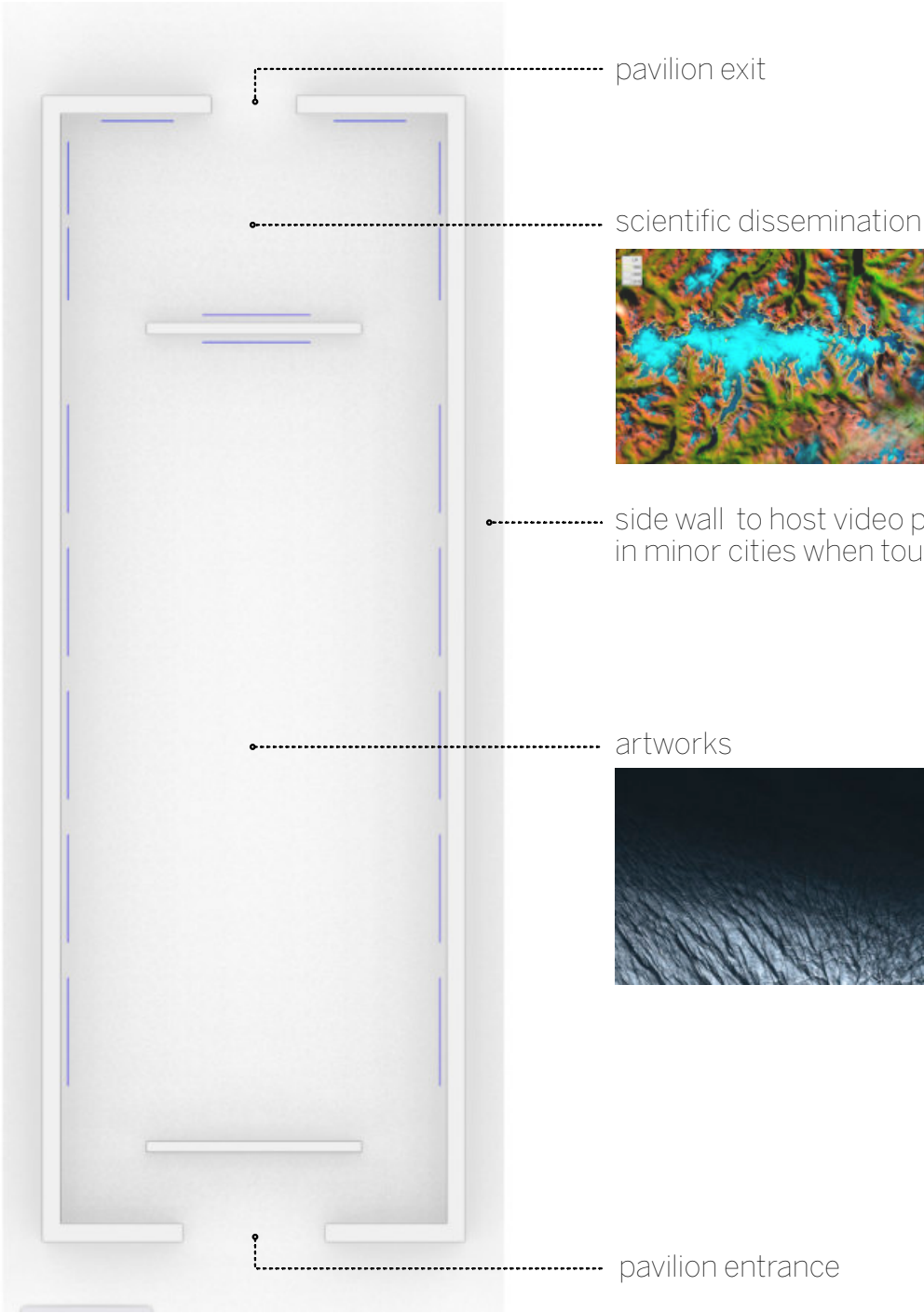
New generation electric truck will be used to transport the exhibition module between Norwegian cities and abroad. The objective is to test the most advanced novel electric technologies being currently developed to minimise CO2, noise and air pollution. These could also be possible exhibition partners.



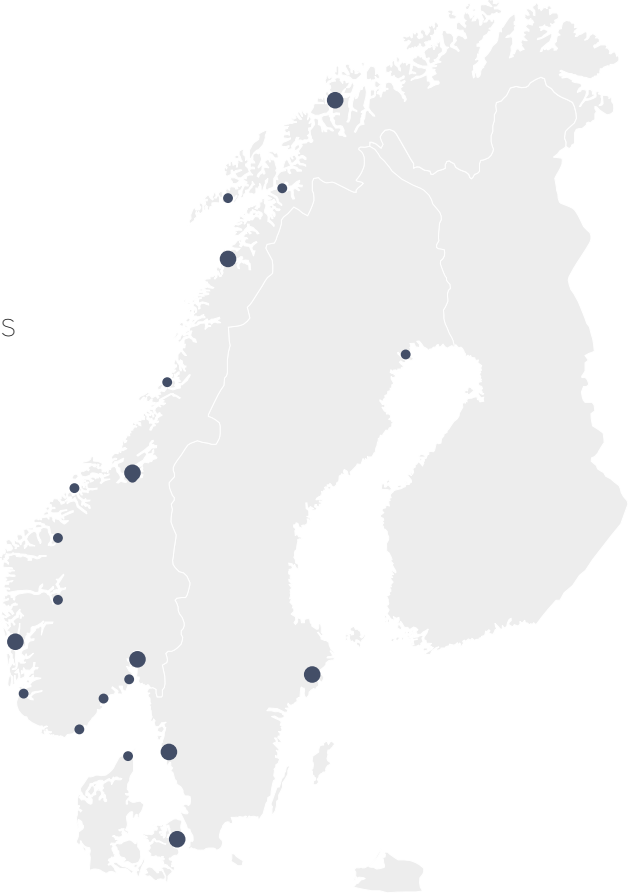
VOLVO
FM Electric


Mercedes-Benz
eActros 300

TESLA
Semi



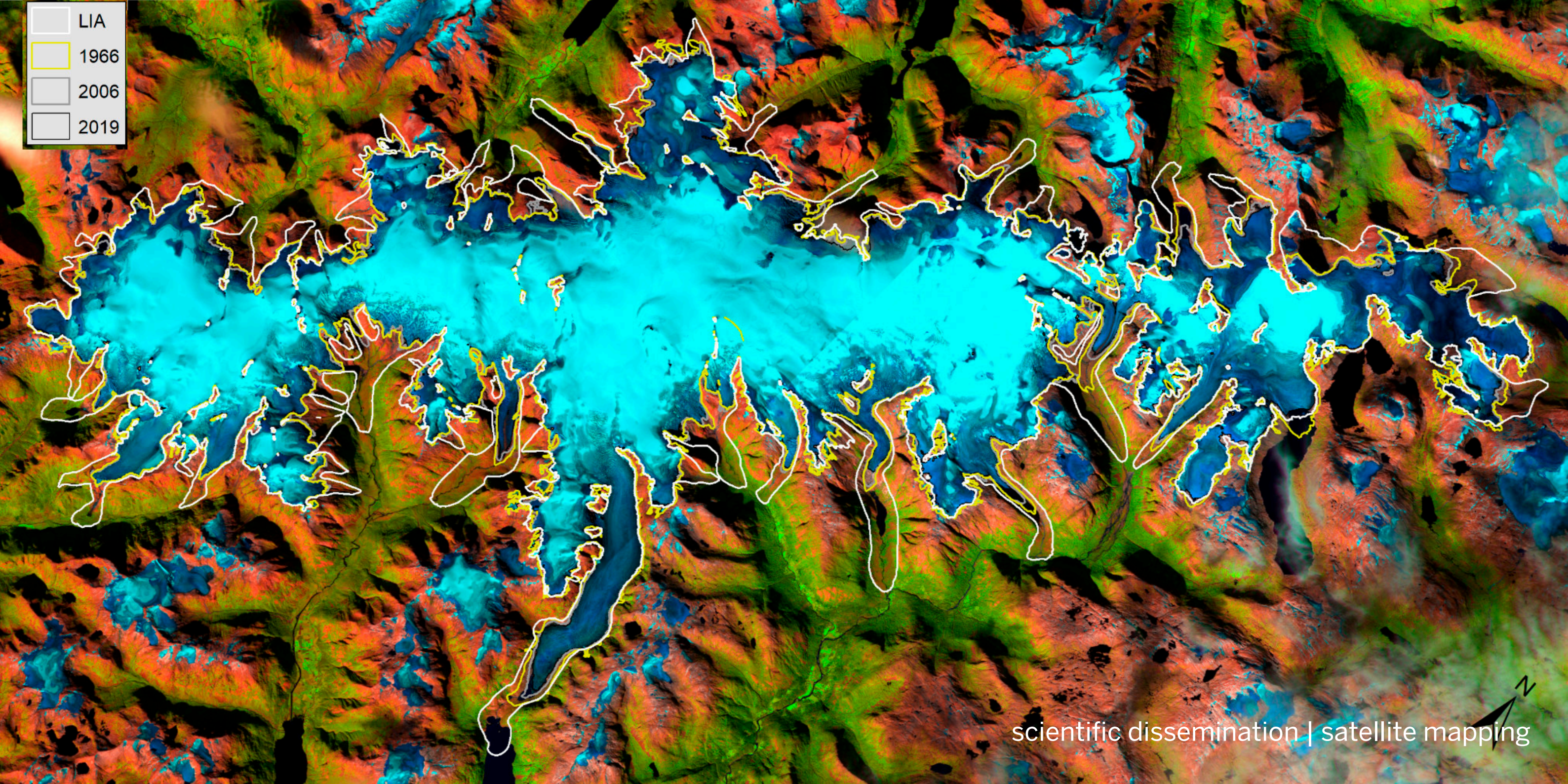
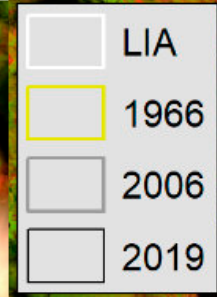
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touring pavilion in other cities



touring pavilion | art room | internal view



scientific dissemination | satellite mapping



touring pavilion | science room | internal view

Norwegian glaciers have been retreating for over a century, with some glaciers losing several kilometres in length. According to model simulations, under a moderate climate scenario, it is estimated that by 2100, 70% of the Norwegian glacier area and 55% of their volume will be lost.

The new Sentinel-2 satellites enabled in 2018 and 2019 the survey of the glacier area in mainland Norway, found to be 2328 km². It revealed a reduction of 15% compared to the previous survey based on Landsat images from 1999-2006.

Glaciers in Norway, like most glaciers worldwide, are retreating. Although there have been some periods of growth, limited to coastal glaciers with high precipitation, the overall trend in the 20th century has been shrinkage. Since 2000, there has been a significant retreat of the Norwegian glacier termini.

The trend is not unique to Norway, as glaciers worldwide are shrinking at an accelerated pace. According to the sixth assessment report from the IPCC, glaciers lost more mass during the decade of 2010-2019 than in any other decade since the beginning of the observational record. In all regions with long-term observations, the mass of glaciers in the decade of 2010-2019 was the smallest since at least the beginning of the 20th century.



NVE

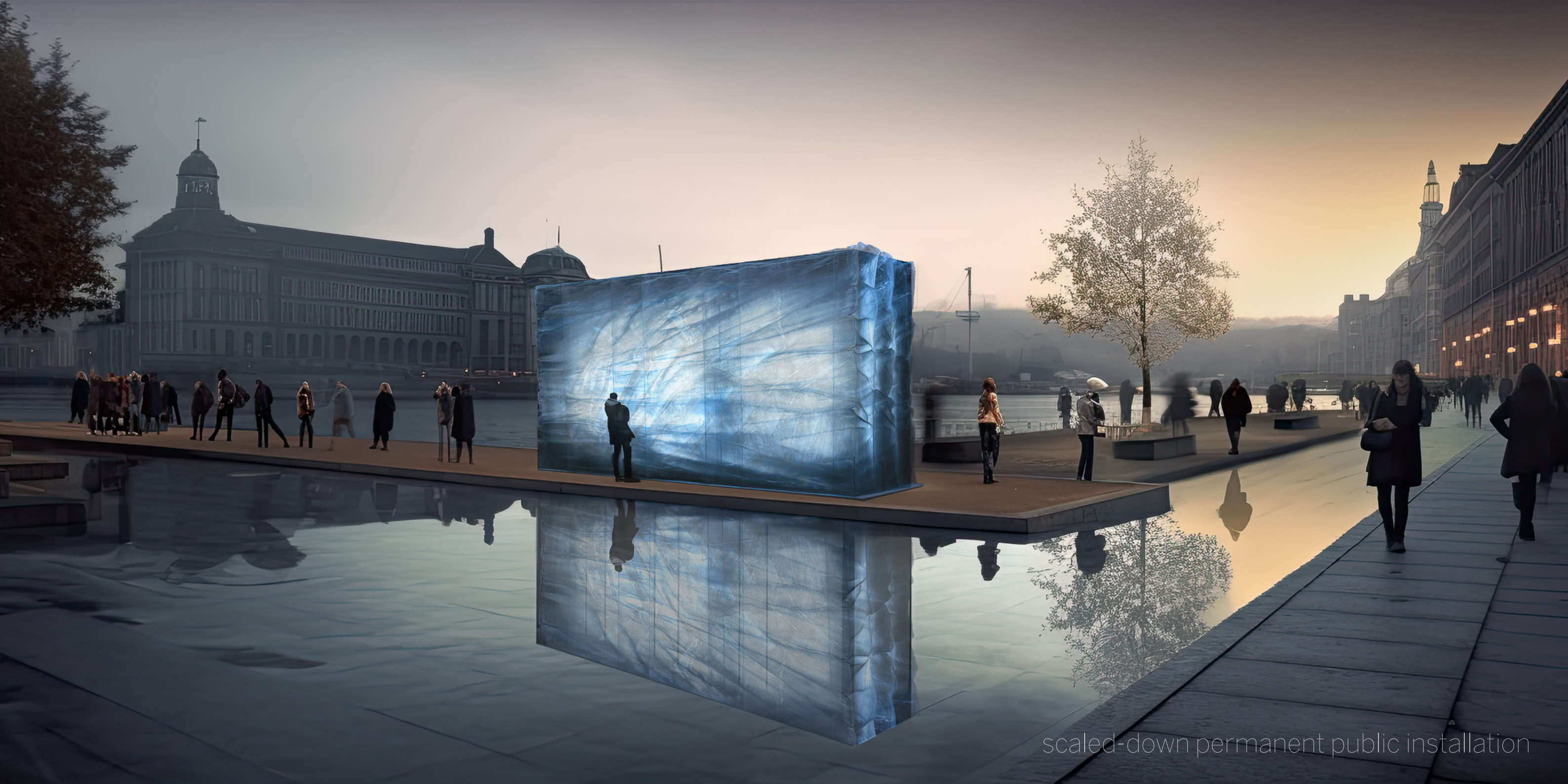
The Norwegian Water Resources
and Energy Directorate (NVE)



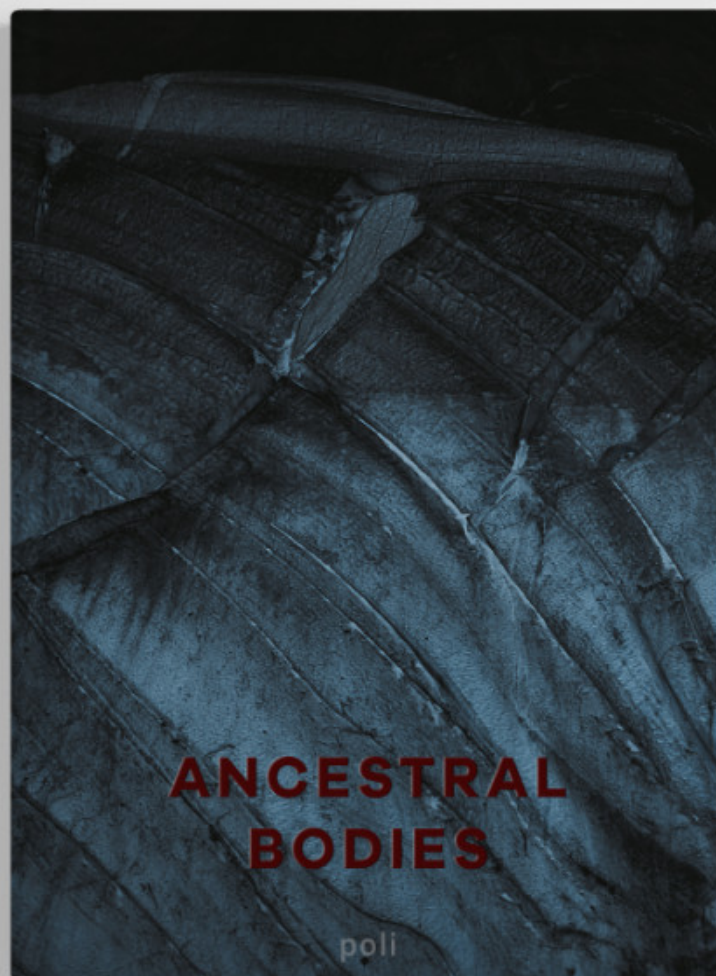
large permanent public installation



large permanent public installation



scaled-down permanent public installation



contents

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password: ancestral2023

flow

naked

skin

entropic

transience

transcendental

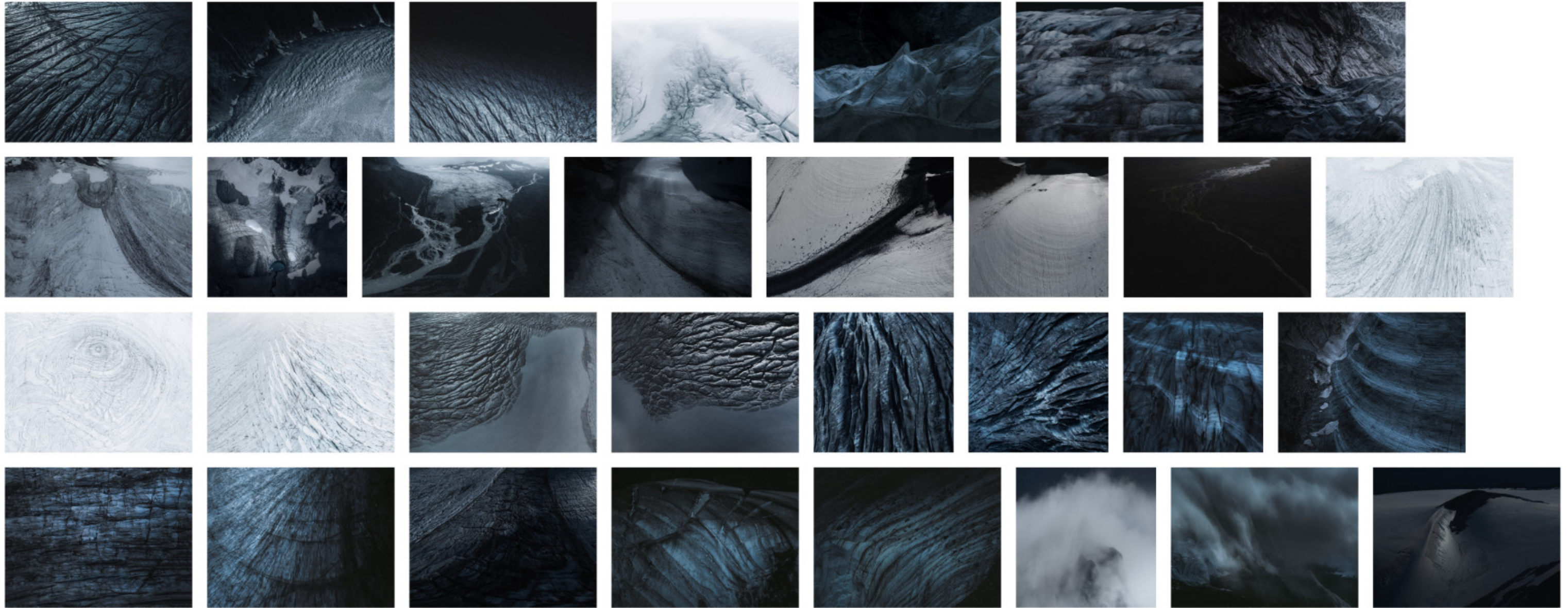
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unearthing



monograph mock-ups

fine art collection



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Lorenzo Poli is an Italian Photographer and an Architect. He moved to the United Kingdom in 2006, where he worked as an Architect for more than 15 years, in London and around the world on projects by Jean Nouvel and Norman Foster. During his long career at Norman Foster, Lorenzo focused on architectural R&D, to implement sustainable strategies for clients such as Apple. He lead the F+P Innovation Team and received several patents to develop groundbreaking architectural solutions. He has been cultivating his deep passion for Nature and Photography throughout his life, while visiting untamed natural environments in Antarctica, Patagonia, Namibia, Japan, Greenland, Lapland, Norway and Iceland, amongst others. Since 2021, Lorenzo has embraced full-time photography as a tool for creating environmental awareness through the rediscovery of the spiritual dimension of Nature. His work has been awarded in the last year with several international recognitions, including the 2022 Sony World Photo Award in the Landscape Professional Category.



Liss Andreassen is a Research Professor and glaciologist (Ph.D.) at the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE), Section for Glaciers, Ice and Snow. Andreassen's work focuses on monitoring the present state and changes of glaciers using field measurements and remote sensing. She has made two satellite based inventories of glaciers in Norway. She is the current president of the International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS)




Samia Ashraf is a curator who has just completed a 4-year Artist Residency at the Baxter Lab, University of Sussex with artist James Dean Diamond at the esteemed Genome Damage and Stability Centre. Focusing on DNA replication and maintenance, their research project has led to a nomination for the Prix Pictet's 10th cycle, 'Human'. Having trained as an artist at UMASS, Brown University, USA and Central St Martins School of Art & Design, Samia also holds an MA in Museum & Gallery Management from City University London. Her experience spans the visual arts, craft and media sector, including mentoring at the Crafts Council, curating exhibitions and supporting artists' practice at all career stages - this comprises, coordinating educational programs, contributing essays and recently mentoring on the Khadija Saye Arts Programme with the charity IntoUniversity. Samia's work extends to the research and management of exhibitions in London and Athens, her work has received significant arts media attention and the inclusion in prestigious collections. She is a noted Business Development Adviser at a leading Photographer/Directors Agent across the UK, Europe and USA markets.

POTENTIAL PARTNERS




Naturhistorisk museum

Climate Museum - Oslo
Natural History Museum



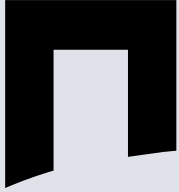
ISTITUTO
italiano
di CULTURA
OSLO

Istituto Italiano di Cultura - Oslo



Det norske institutt
i Roma

Istituto di Norvegia - Rome



Norway National Parks



UNIVERSITY
OF OSLO



CECA

ICOM
International committee
for education
and cultural action




IGS

The International Glaciological
Society



Escuela Técnica Superior de Ingenieros
de Minas y Energía - Madrid




ICOM

international
council
of museums



Universität der Künste Berlin

The Berlin University of the Arts (UdK)



STUDIVM VRBIS

Università di Studi di Roma
La Sapienza



Eye-V Gallery



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