

A proposal for a public artwork on climate change

The Horizon 66° N



66°10'59.09" N 17°39'51.23" W

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The Horizon 66° N: A seamark that marks the horizon.



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As tourists we want to experience things. And during a travel, or after, we try to take care of those experiences in our memory. We express ourselves through sharing images, for example on social media networks. We are collecting pictures on our computers hard drives and in albums. We try to represent our journeys and adventures through pictures and language in different ways. But the horizon of our thoughts and ideas is always moving further, as well as our memories. There is no map over our minds and no possible way of measuring moments.

Research shows us that climate change is something that is happening for real. Catastrophes are occurring and there are more and much worse to come, even though it's not visible at once in your own surroundings.

We are living in a digital era and representation is crucial for how we understand the world. Unfortunately it's easy to be blindfolded for difficult realities. In a lot of places in the world you can easily close your eyes for climate change and what it is causing globally.

The horizon and especially the sea horizon are among the most common motives in art history. If we are buying a real estate or rent a room we have to pay a lot of money extra for a view over an untouched sea horizon.

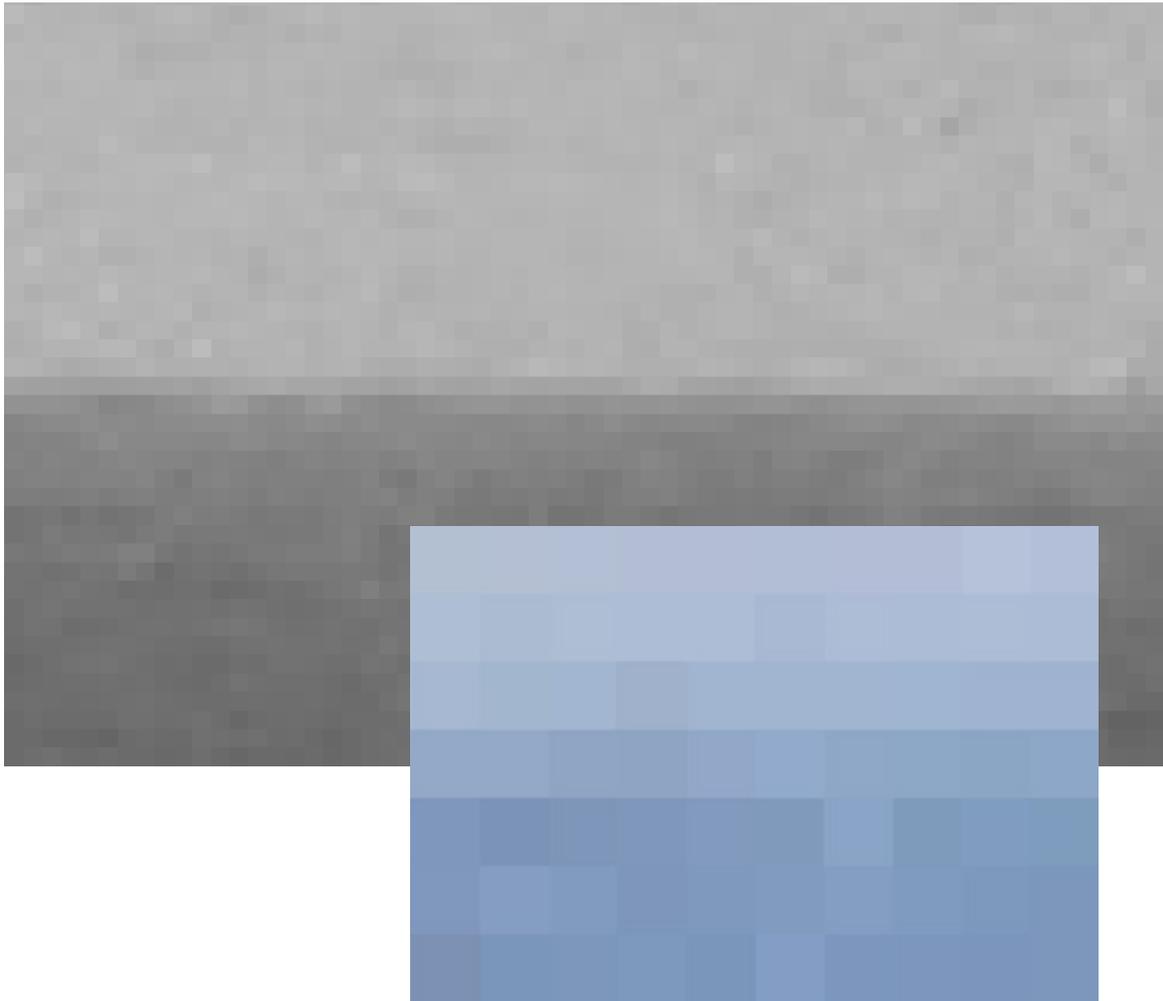
In the late modernism the monochrome painting, or a few color field surface in abstract expressionism, became a site for contemplation and projection of the future. This was after the traumatic Second World War.

Today even wind power stations that are good for clean energy, is something we find disturbing and don't want in our untouched view of the horizon. The idea and ideal about a pure untouched nature is problematic in how it is producing a dualistic difference between culture and nature. This in a time in the world when humans are effecting the state of the earth and its future more than ever. We are the ones responsible.

This art-project will be about making a seamark that marks the horizon in the ocean.

This seamark will be constituted and made as a digital photograph of the horizon, zoomed in on the very pixels where the ocean meets the sky. It is impossible to mark the horizon. But in a photograph or a picture it is fixed, even if it is from an ongoing journey.

We need measurements to understand how life is changing. We do see similarities and differences when we look at images. But what does these pictures mean to us. Are they just empty or yet another horizon that moves?

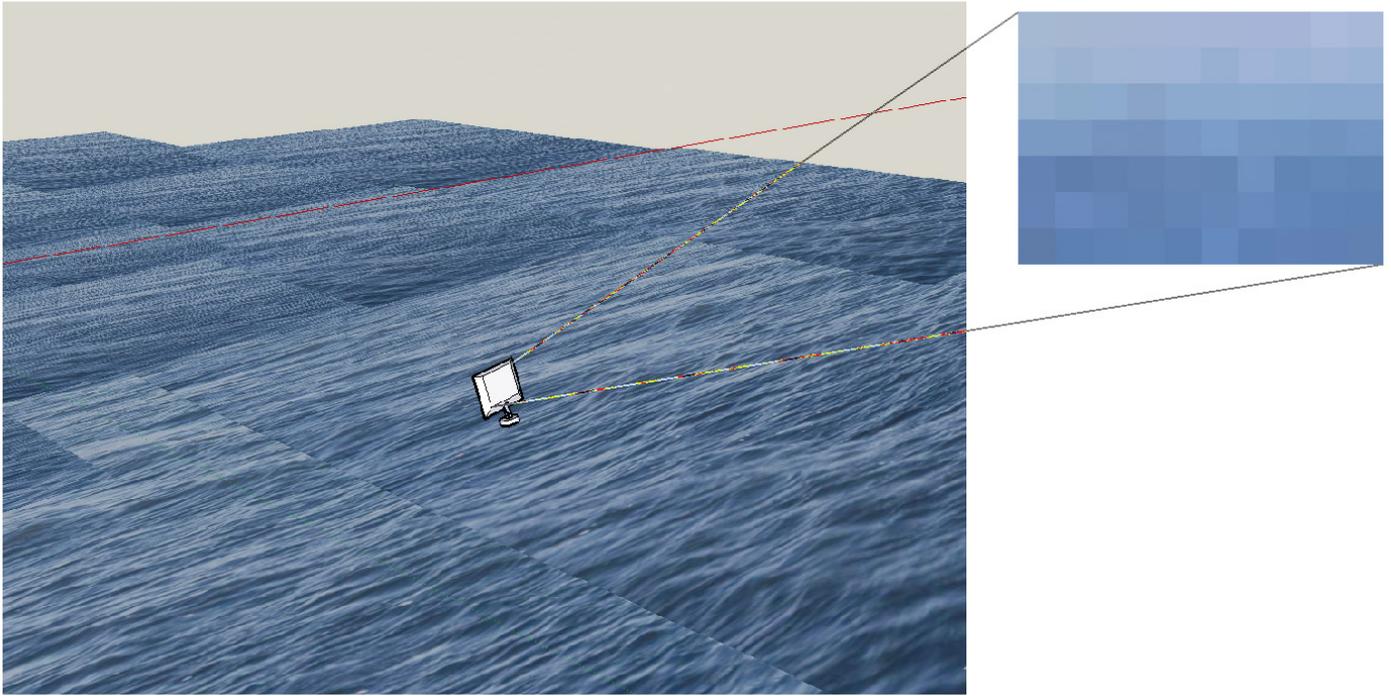


The symbolic impact, the play on perception and changed perspectives is important in this work. But to understand climate change we need to listen to research and facts. This seamark is going to be a research station for marine biologists and climate change researchers. To get it placed in the ocean as a seamark it's going to be marked out with the sign & light combination for measurement instruments in the ocean. The seamark will also be self-supported with energy through solar cells.

It will become a site-specific art piece that's going to intervene in to the horizon. If you look on it from a certain angle and distance at the right time it will be in exact height and light of the horizon. And if you shoot a picture of it, the seamark will disappear in to the pixels of the photograph. The seamark will also appear on sea maps and different digital maps such as Google Earth.

There is no memory of a horizon. No history. You can talk about the horizon as a phenomenon, but never remember a specific moment and horizon.

Sharing moments won't help very much when it comes to solving problems with climate change. We need structural change. Art has the power to get people curious and bring up awareness about new perspectives. The future is not bright according to a united and agreeing group of researchers in the world. Therefore we need radical change globally. We need to project a difference in the horizon. We need to work for change rather than an untouched view.



A sketch over the seamark "The Horizon 66°N" positioned in the North Atlantic Ocean. On the right side is a selection from a picture, photographed from Husavik, of the horizon and the very pixels where the ocean meets the sky.

The Horizon 66°N Example position: 66°10'59.09" N 17°39'51.23" W



Example Sites

The Horizon 67° - The archipelago outside Tromsø, Norway

The plan will be to collaborate with researchers and make the work into a connection between science and art. There are two sites thought of as examples when sketching on this project. One of them is outside the archipelago surrounding Tromsø in the very north of Norway. Tromsø is going through changes in development and today is this city very important in Norwegian academics and global research. Since 2007 has the world most northern art academy been situated in this arctic city. The city is originally most known for the fishing industry and as a center for sea travellers in the northern regions in the world. It is important to remember history when a city is going through changes. The ones that for many years have been dependent on the view of the first sun light over the sea horizon are the fishermen. The work could bring together stories about art, science, tourism, fishermen and the fishing industry. Relations to the nature are something they all have in common from their different perspectives.

The Horizon 66° North – Husavik, Iceland

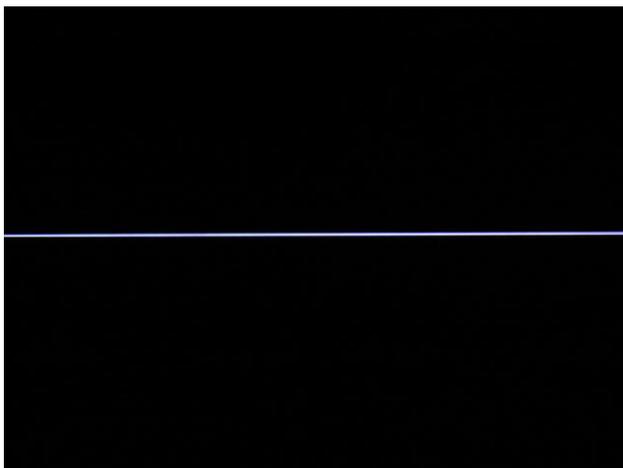
Another site where the first ideas for this project got drawn was in Husavik, Iceland. The Northern Sea outside Skjálfandi Bay, Husavik has been put up on this sketch as a picture example. The ocean has always been important in the development of Husavik, a fishing village and small town located on northeast Iceland. Today is this place probably most known for whale watching and there are a lot of tourists visiting Husavik every year, especially during the summer months. In this stream of people the two whale watching companies: North Sailing and Gentle Giants, are located in the center in the harbor. Companies that make their living in selling experiences to people. The seamark could then become a tourist attraction for guided boat tours to pass by. The area is also popular for marine biology researchers that would get permanent station for measurement instruments with this work.

This site is also pretty close to the Arctic Circle, 66° North, another phenomenon in measuring.

Related works and references:



Olafur Eliasson *The horizon series*, 2002. Forty C-prints, 87 7/16 x 218 7/8 inches, overall. Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum



Olafur Eliasson *Your black horizon*, 2005 in *Always a little further*, 51st Venice Biennale, Isola di San Lazzaro, 2005.





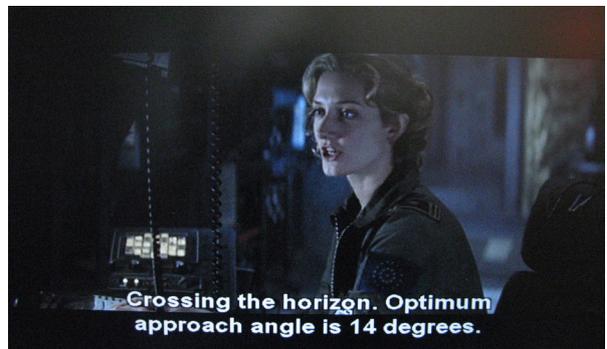
Hiroshi Sugimoto *Pacific Ocean, Iwate*, 1986 from the series *Seascapes*, Silver Gelatin Print 55 x 43 cm

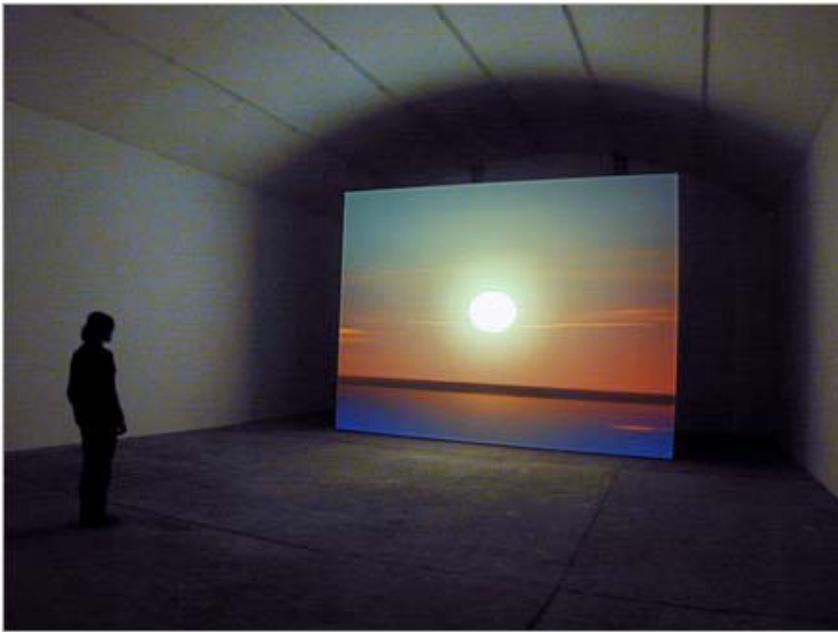


View of Earth's horizon as seen from Space Shuttle Endeavour, 2002.



Paul W.S. Anderson *Event Horizon*, 1997 Cinema





Paul Pfeiffer *Morning After the Deluge* (after a Turner painting) a twenty-minute loop of a Cape Cod sunrise and sunset, edited together such that the sun itself remains fixed centre-screen, while the horizon appears to move across it.



Kristoffer Svenberg *The Indian Ocean*, 2004-2005 Monitor Gallery, Gothenburg 2005.



Solrun Hansdottir Location in Husavik, Iceland.