

SUMMER IN SVALBARD  
AN  
ARCTIC ADVENTURE



Beatrice von Preussen

2017

WINSTON  
CHURCHILL  
MEMORIAL  
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## Beatrice von Preussen

The natural world fascinates me. I love to travel and explore. As an artist and illustrator I am inspired by nature, producing prints, etchings and illustrations based on what I discover around me.

As well as working with the Sussex Wildlife Trust in their Forest School program I have spent the past two years as Artist in Residence at Battersea Park Children's Zoo. I've learnt that using art as a way to explore the world around us is an ideal way to engage children and families, encouraging them to be curious and to go out, explore, and discover the world for themselves.



*Adventure map of Svalbard*

# Executive Summary

In June 2017 I travelled to Svalbard to gain inspiration and gather material for an illustrated children's book about science and nature in the Arctic Circle. I also worked on ideas for a series of prints and photographs with a view to holding an exhibition based on my expedition.

Rather than using my Fellowship to answer questions I wanted to embark on a journey in order to find questions to answer. I wanted to seek new experiences and see new sights, to receive information and transmit it to others through the writing of my book.

My aim was to go and explore a fascinating region of the world, to do things and see things which could be interesting to other people, then come back and tell everyone about my expedition in order to inspire a sense of adventure and wonder.

I hoped that this expedition might be a springboard for brand new elements in my work and that I may find ideas for future projects and forge new and fruitful collaborations. In this aspect my Fellowship has been successful.

Five core themes have emerged from my sketch books and diaries:

**Fossils and Rocks, a geological journey**

**Plants and Animals of Svalbard**

**360° photographs, a new way to share the view**

**Printmaking in the field**

**Science and research**



# An Introduction To My Project

I am an artist, I use images to communicate. I use images to draw attention to things, and the things that interest me are those that sometimes get overlooked and in my view, don't have enough attention paid to them.

The every day things which are all around us intrigue me, the woodlouse curling up and the stars revolving overhead, the natural world which we are all part of.

The Cambridge Dictionary's definition of Nature is:

*"The animals, plants, rocks, etc. in the world and all the features, forces, and processes that happen or exist independently of people, such as the weather, the sea, mountains, the production of young animals or plants and growth."*

If I draw a picture of a woodlouse curling up then that is art, but if I ask why it curls up and how it curls up into a perfect armored ball, then that is science.

From my time as artist in residence at Battersea Park Zoo I have discovered that children and adults alike are fascinated by the natural world and how it works. Why do things happen and how do they happen? Everything is exciting to children, from volcanoes to snowflakes, icebergs to tadpoles. I found that nearly all of the adults who brought their children to participate in my workshops at the zoo ended up joining in and having a great time with their child. Everyone was creating, playing and most importantly learning together.

Rachel Carson writes in *The Earth Speaks*, about keeping a child's sense of wonder in the world alive and how for this to be possible;

*"he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in. Parents often have a sense of inadequacy when confronted on the one hand with the eager, sensitive mind of a child and on the other with a world of complex physical nature, inhabited by a life so various and unfamiliar that it seems hopeless to reduce it to order and knowledge."*

Carson discusses encouraging a sense of wonder in children and that is what I am aiming to do with my work. Not to teach but to encourage and inspire. She says;

*“it is more important to pave the way for the child to want to know that to put him on a diet of facts he is not ready to assimilate.”*

And I agree.

I am not a teacher and I am not a scientist but I can encourage children and families to go out, be curious and explore the world around them. Doing these things with children promotes enquiry, communication, risk taking, and self reliance as well as creating a shared experience. This is not only enjoyable but can help increase the resilience of children and help them to grow. These small people are ultimately the adults who are the future custodians of the world. They are not going to look after the world if they don't know about it and they won't know about it if they are not interested in it. We need our children to cherish the world around them.

*“People must feel that the natural world is important and valuable and beautiful and wonderful and an amazement and a pleasure.”* David Attenborough



*The Antigua with Fjortende Julibreen beyond, Svalbard*

I was drawing tiny fossils at the Natural History Museum when I discovered that the library I was in contained the collections from the Challenger expedition of 1872. The Challenger was a ship that went out to explore the oceans of the world. On board were artists and scientists working together to record their findings.

I thought that I had probably been talking about woodlice and puffballs for long enough and I needed to find some fresh and inspiring material if I wanted to take this work further and develop my career.

The story of the Challenger was my spark of inspiration, I would go on an expedition - to the Arctic Circle - the land of the midnight sun. I would sail on a tall ship with artists and scientists, and explore one of the most iconic and important areas of the Earth.



*Floating ice and birds, Svalbard*

I found my ship, a Dutch ship, the Antigua, setting sail from Longyearbyen, Norway in June 2017 with the aim of circumnavigating the Svalbard archipelago. There would be 30 artists and scientists on board, from all over the world, each with their own project. I found a studio I could rent in Longyearbyen to further develop the work I made at sea. And then I found the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust. Winston Churchill wanted to enable people to go and explore the world, he wanted them to go and find out things, and to come back and share their experiences, to use their journeys to inspire other people; and that is exactly what the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust has enabled me to do.

*“Travel to learn...  
Return to inspire.”* Winston Churchill Memorial Trust

The journey of my Fellowship will be a vehicle for the work I do, my expedition will give me a good story, whilst also providing a host of new material with which to write a book, make new prints, paintings and drawings with which to share the adventure.

My objectives are to meet new people who are exploring the same things but with different areas of expertise and experience; to build relationships and share knowledge and ideas, whilst learning new ways of seeing and doing; to expand my horizons, to grow and develop both personally and in my artistic practice. Most importantly I want to gather and develop a body of work which will enable me to relate these experiences to other people, to inspire them to be curious about the world and to go out together and explore.

I will use my big exciting experiences to draw attention to the small wonders of everyday nature all around us, to bring the gaze back to snails on the garden path.

*“A common man marvels at uncommon things. A wise man marvels at the commonplace.”* Confucius

# Things I Saw And Did In The Arctic Circle

10th June – 28th July 2017



*A typical view from deck on a still, foggy night, Svalbard*

I have included here a few diary entries from my trip to give an idea of the material my book will contain as well some of the many questions that I was left contemplating. As my journey progressed I saw so many things I wanted to investigate further, the book will aim to elaborate on each topic and observation, and answer every question raised.

## Questions raised

Why are rocks different colours and textures?

How do glaciers work? Are they really moving all the time?

There are lots of wooden hutches on stilts, are they for dogs? Why are they so high?

Does everyone choose the colour for their own house?

What do these numbers with ° mean? How do you measure latitude and longitude and how does it make sense on the map?

Where do all these birds migrate to and from and why do they do that? How do they know where to go?

Why is the ice so many different colours?

How does the ice get made into 'sculptures'?

What is the collective noun for walrus? And seals and polar bears and puffins? I bet that's a good one, a stripe?

If there are a pile of stones the permafrost will move them into a ring. How does this happen?

I saw thousands of birds all living on the cliff. At the bottom it was bright green where moss and plants like to grow in the nitrogen rich bird poo. Which birds live on the cliffs and why?

Glaciers are marked on the map with the date of when they were recorded, some advance, some retreat. Climate change. Global warming. Natural change. Is it accelerating?

Are all these stones ground up by the glaciers? The arctic is so dusty!

What kind of whales are here? What do they eat? Where do they come from and where are they going? Is whale poo really pink? Why?

Why do scientists find the Arctic such a good place to work?

What is Solstice? How does the tilt of the Earth work?

What skills would you need if you were to stay through all the seasons?

What are Algae? Plankton, Zooplankton, Phytoplankton?

Environmental physicists are working on measuring aerosols. What does this mean? Something to do with dust and rain and wind.

## Tuesday 13th June

*Fjortende Julibukta, sailing North.*

*Arctic weather, cloudy and steady NW2. 6°C.*

Landed on the beach the Southern shore of Fjortende Julibukta where there are lots of sea birds the same as in England. If I shut my eyes and listen I could just as well be on the beach in East Sussex.

Birds I recognize: Barnacle Goose Brent Goose (it is spring migration, are they on their way to England?), Canada Geese but apparently these are a subspecies, a bit smaller than the usual ones. Pink-footed geese are also stopping over on migration.

There are Mallards, Ringed Plover, Dunlin, Sandpiper, Redshank, Black-legged Kittiwake, Glaucous Gull, Black-Headed Gull, Herring Gull.

I walked along the beach at the high tide mark. There was no rubbish which was disappointing as I had wanted to collect some to print. There are a lot of litter picking expeditions here.



*Rocks coloured by various minerals*

Big holes in the sand, I think they are where chunks of ice get washed up and then they melt but the sand around them holds their shape. I wish I had some plaster so I could cast the ice chunk holes.

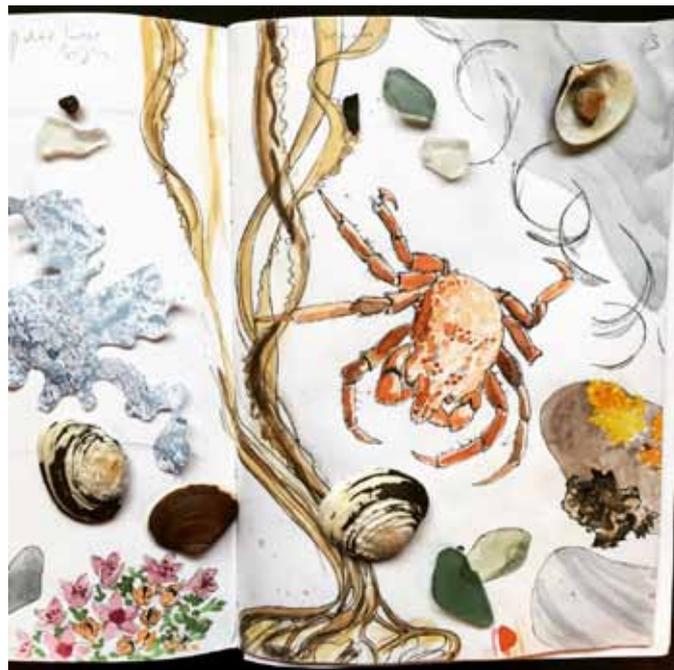
It's not cold at all, I have no gloves on and the sun is out. There are beautiful purple and yellow flowers nestled in the stones, Saxifage.

Made landfall on the beach at the left side of the glacier, Fjortende Julibreen. We saw bits of the glacier breaking off, plunging into the sea. This is called **calving**, I always thought it was **carving**. There were these fantastic booms which you could feel in your stomach and behind your knees and huge chunks of the glacier just fell off and echoed all along the cove. Then the sea where we were sitting sucked out and a huge wave swashed up. Everyone had to grab their stuff and scramble up the beach. Behind us was a wall of ice, the melting side of the glacier. The booms made it vibrate and little pieces of wet ice tinkled down onto the beach.

If a glacier is melting in the summer more than it grows in the winter it is called retreating.

There was an abundance of light mustard yellow rocks, pastel pink like Nepalese rock salt and a pale silvery blue.

We saw a ringed seal swimming by and having a look at us. I did two paintings.



*Seashore sketch book painting*

## Thursday 15th June

*Cummingøya. Reaching the ice edge, about 700 miles from the NORTH POLE*

*Sky covered in heavy clouds, beautiful light in the evening. ENE 2.4°C.*

Morning landing on Cummingøya.

There was a pair of Skuas there – they are HUGE up close. I see why it would be scary if they flew at your head. Found lots of bones and huge bird pellets full of Guillemot skulls and legs. Saw a distant walrus swimming around and found a seal jaw with a perfect tooth in it. And something that looked like a mushroom, it was the inner ear bone of a seal.



*The inner ear of a seal*



*The Skua pellet*

13:50 – Anchor up. Sailing North.

Saw a close up walrus at last, scratching his back on an ice shelf.

16:30 – slowly bumped our way through huge floating chunks of ice to the edge of the pack ice. We cannot go any further as the direction of the wind means that there is solid ice from here to the North Pole. We won't be able to circumnavigate Spitsbergen.

Afternoon landing on ice flow. Walking down the gangplank onto a piece of floating ice in the middle of the Arctic Sea was a very odd experience.

When you scrape away the top layer of snow (about 6" deep) you can see that you are standing on just green ice with the sea underneath. Everyone walked a bit strangely, as if they might be on thin ice. Nemo was delighted and bounded about like a puppy, he is bred for snow and he loves it.

We saw loads of ringed seals and listened to bearded seals singing on the

hydrophone. Heard a far off whale singing. It snowed.

Evening landing on ice flow.



*The Antigua tethered to the sea ice at 79°56,6' N 012°38,3' E*

## Thursday 22nd June

*Fridtjofhamna - Recherchebreen.*

*Sunny, with some passing showers No wind. 5°C.*

Saw a hunter's hut with an A frame a few hundred yards away, this is where they hang seal meat so the bears can't get it. A few people live out here all year round.

13:30 - Anchor down close to Fridtjofbreen, 77°46,6' N, 014°34,5' E

I made some monoprints on deck. We walked up to Fridtjofbreen on the eastern shore, and then up and over the top. I was walking on a glacier!



*BvP making monoprints on deck*

We walked carefully and slowly. The ice is grainy and feels dry in some places and like an ice rink in others. There are deep cracks.

A polar bear approached the other group who had stayed on the beach and nearly cut them off. Quick thinking Captain Jo saved them and no one had to fire a shot.

Saw the bear, stalking, sliding, rock climbing and swimming. Then he began to swim towards us. We hurried back.

17:50 - Anchor up.

Sailing South, passing the impressive rock formations at Midterhuken. Bear on Akseløya.



*View across the top of Fritjofbreen*

## Thursday 6th July

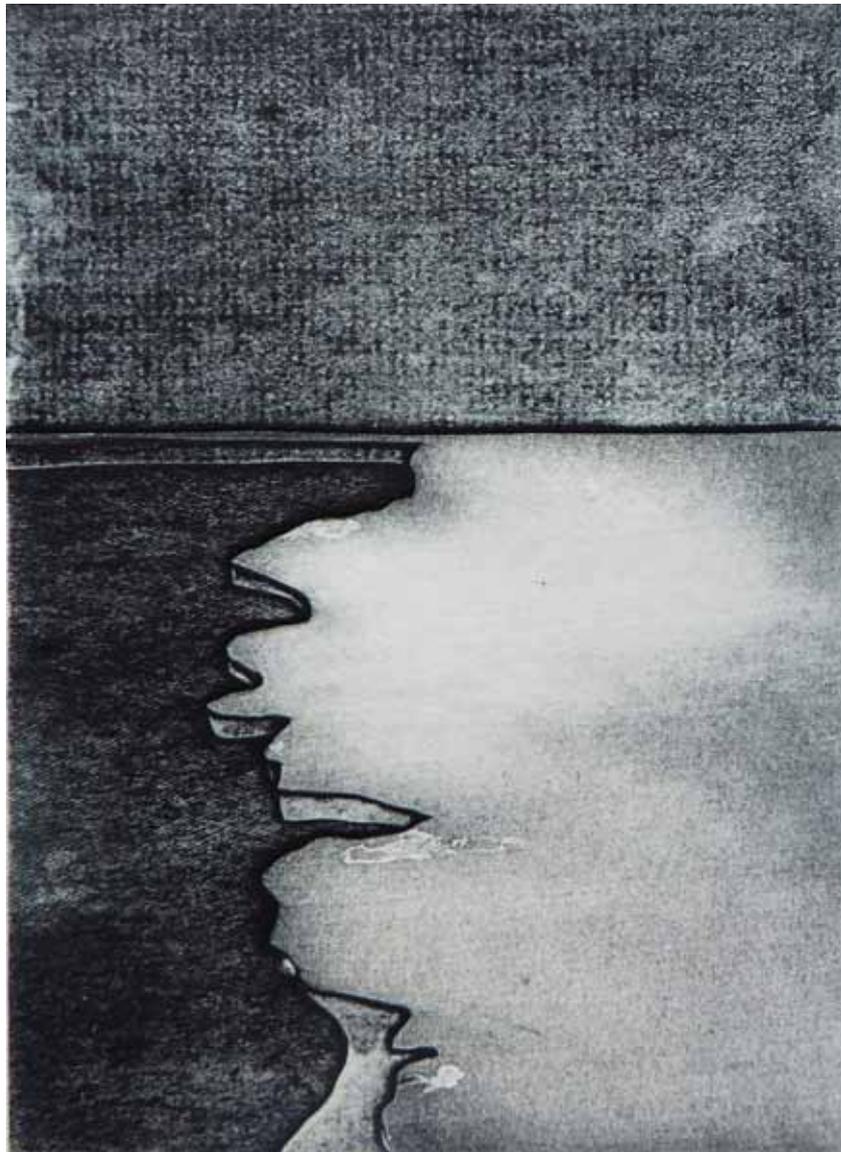
*Very cold and windy and grey. Sunny and calm at night.*

Spent the morning at the kennels finding out about sled dogs. Alaskan, Siberian Husky, Malamute, Greenland dog. Mixed together to be fast, strong, and reliable with a warm coat - and clever - but not too clever.

Swam in the sea with Cicilia. Wore my woolen vest and socks, everyone says it's warmer to swim naked but if I'm going in 2°C water I want a vest on.

Artica have granted permission for me to use the printmaking workshop. At last I can make some prints but I have no metal plates or acid here! I will try the collagraph technique.

Had reindeer stew and berries for dinner.



*Ice edge collagraph*



*Leaf fossil*

# Themes and Projects

## Fossils and rocks, a geological journey in Earth Science

Prior to my trip I met Dr Giles Miller, Principal curator of micropalaeontology at the Natural History Museum. Giles writes a blog and uses twitter for public outreach concerning geology. We thought that my expedition would be a good opportunity to engage a younger audience with the fascinating world of rocks and fossils. And so began the great hunt for 'Fossilised Worms Teeth'.



*BvP at Kapp Belvedere*

Conodonts are the minute fossilized remains of flat, worm-like water dwellers which lived millions of years ago. When they died, the soft bodies of the creatures rotted away and the remaining hard mouthparts were preserved in layers of sediment. Not only are these fascinating fossils; you need a microscope to see them and scientists are not sure exactly what they are; Teeth? Grinders? Some sort of scales? They are also bio thermometers, each tiny tooth changes colour

depending on the temperature the rock reached when it was being formed. You can find these fossils in the bands of limestone at Kapp Belvedere in Svalbard.

I recruited children to join my Arctic Adventure Gang and started a blog for them to follow as I went in search of the elusive worms teeth. You can read all about it on my blog.

Having launched my own rather terrifying five man expedition to Kapp Belvedere from the Antigua, on 25th June, I managed to collect some rocks from what I hoped was the right place and get them back to Longyearbyen.



### *Finding out about rocks at UNIS*

At UNIS, the university centre in Svalbard, I met Snorre Olaussen, Professor in arctic petroleum geology. I needed to find out if my extensive collection was the right sort rocks before I shipped them home. We spent an afternoon using acid and different tools to identify the types of rock.

Back in London my package of rocks, stones and fossils arrived at the Natural History Museum where Giles explained all about the geology I had observed in

Svalbard. The limestone rocks from Kapp Belvedere are currently in the bowels of the NHM soaking in an acid bath to reveal the sediment, which we will then sift through to look for ‘fossilized worms teeth’.

If I find a ‘tooth’ I will be able to hold it against a conodont colour chart and find out what temperature a specific rock reached at a specific time in a specific place. And that is how people studying rocks and fossils, geologists and palaeontologists build up a picture of the history of the Earth.

Svalbard is an ideal place to study these things because there is no ground cover at all, the place is laid bare before us like a book of time waiting to be read. When I asked the scientists I met why they are so interested in details from millions of years ago they explained that it is necessary to study the past to make sense of what is happening to our world now, and to understand what might happen in the future.

Also involved in this project have been Prof Ian Harding from Southampton University and Professor Richard Twitchett, research leader, invertebrates and plants palaeobiology NHM.

## **Plants and animals of Svalbard**

One thinks of Svalbard as a land dusted in snow, encased in ice and frozen solid; and it is, but if you look closely enough you can see that even in this inhospitable and extreme environment life battles on, plants and animals adapt and thrive.

When I first arrived at Longyearbyen everything looked grey. I saw the high, flat topped, triangle sided mountains, their corners brushed with ice. Every fold and crevice is covered in grey. Shale, scree, moraine; the whole place is made from ground up rocks and rock dust blows in the arctic wind and grits in your teeth. There is brownish grey, darker grey and pale grey. At the beginning I found it a bleak and enormous, strangely featureless landscape. Everything is very far away.

I was only there for eight weeks and in that time summer burst forth in Svalbard. My eyes refocused. I began to notice the moss and algae springing up in any place it could find nutrients in the soil. The wildflowers shone like bright jewels in the rubble. I noticed the rich mineral colours of the rocks and

stones and the bright wisps of reindeer hairs snatched up by bobbing white Snow Buntings. In that brief spell of summer in the high arctic the sun never touches the horizon, it circles round and round at the top of the sky and all the life beneath it gathers every ounce of energy and puts it into growing, blooming, reproducing. It all needs to be done before the blue darkness creeps back in and the ice covers the ground once again.



*Woolly Lousewort*



*Campion*



*Saxifrage*

Ever on the look out for Polar Bears I was pleased that I had done rifle training in England, I was longing to see them but not to be near them. The threat of being surprised by one is very real and frightening, you see quite a few little cairns marking the places where people have been killed. We saw about seven bears from the Antigua and from my knowledgeable nature guides I learnt all about the Ice Bjorn and the other animals we encountered.

The adaptations that living organisms have made to take advantage of life in the far north are extraordinary, I saw trees just 2cm tall, all the plants are tiny to conserve energy and keep out of the freezing wind. Tiniest of all are the algae and plankton which invisibly underpin all life in the region. One of my fellow travelers was Professor Lynne Quarmby, molecular biochemist from Canada. Lynne had brought a microscope with her on the Antigua and I had the opportunity to take meltwater samples and prepare slides which we looked at together. I saw some of the smallest organisms which help to support the largest such as the blue whales which popped up next to the ship just outside Ny Alesund.



*Making slides on board the Antigua*

Being able to see, first hand, the plants and animals of the arctic circle gave me a greater understanding of not only the surprising robustness of life but also the fragile relationships that each plant and animal has with those around it, as well as the greater environment. For me this has brought to life many of the topics we discuss when thinking about nature; biodiversity, food webs, adaptation and interaction of species, and critically the environment and global climate.

The most memorable moment of my time on the Antigua was when I dangled a hydrophone into the deep water under the ship, we heard the extraordinary sound of bearded seals singing to one another far below the surface. And the song of a passing whale.

As the sea ice shrinks the arctic circle is opening up to more tourism and more shipping, in places which have been silent for ever there will now be the racket of propellers and engines. How will this affect the animals that live there? Will they be able to adapt? Will the bearded seals sing on?

## 360° photographs, a new way to share the view

Through talking about my Fellowship before I left England I had the good fortune to meet Tudor Jenkins, a photographer with a PhD in artificial intelligence. Tudor lent me a 180° fish eye camera lens to take with me to Svalbard, I learnt the technique of using the lens to take a set of photographs which can then be knitted together to produce a 360° view of the scene. These wraparound scenes can be viewed on an Ipad touch screen or in a simple cardboard headset which a smart phone can slot into. The user can fully explore the location by spinning the image around, zooming in and out and look up and down. I could have these images online so people can access them and explore Svalbard for themselves.

It is not possible to show a 360° image here but when you invert the files they produce pictures known as Tiny Planets. This one is called Arctic Circle.



*Tiny planet, the Arctic Circle*

Tudor has been working on a project considering how digitization can be employed to convey detailed information in a simple intuitive and structured way. We are now working together to develop an app based on my expedition.

## Printmaking in the field

In the early months of 2017 I was invited to talk about my Arctic Adventure to the students at St Christopher's School, Hove and Parkstone Grammar, Poole. These talks incorporated printmaking workshops in which the children and I explored some different methods of transferring an image from one surface to another. In the school workshops we worked with the most basic form of image transfer, rubbing. During my journey I produced a finished book of rubbings taken from the Antigua, it is called Portrait of a Ship.

I had initially planned to take a small printing press with me assuming that there must be some way of doing so. Alas, with limited funds it was impossible and I was forced to rethink. On the ship I could not use my usual methods of etching on a metal plate with acid, and I had to be inventive.



*Artica printmaking studio*

I used Perspex plates to make monotype prints and plastic sheets to scratch into. Using the items I found around me I made images on the plates; ice, stones, bones and sand all made their mark.

Amazingly one of my fellow travellers on the Antigua was Emma Hoette, the lady in charge of running the printmaking studio for Artica, foundation for artistic and cultural activity on Svalbard. When we returned to Longyearbyen Emma arranged for me to have access to the printing presses but I had no



*Rocks used as tools on the plastic plate*



*Drawing with rocks*

metal plates and with only a month left they would take too long to arrive! Using the materials I had to hand I began to experiment with a process, new to me, called Collagraph. I made good progress on developing ideas and I'm pleased to have returned to England with a set of prints that I made in the arctic circle.



*Things on the beach. Drypoint*

Emma has previously worked with Zurich artist Michael Gunzburger. Gunzburger made a series of prints from real dead animals. One of these was a polar bear made from the body of a dead bear found by Sarah, our nature guide on the Antigua. One of the life-sized prints has been left with Emma for her to take it further than the gallery wall. When the Antigua was moored to the ice Emma and me and two others held the four big pieces of paper that make up the bears print and we walked it across the ice. We filmed the process and made a short black and white video.

## Science and research

The National Rifle association of the UK ran a Protection against Polar Bear rifle shooting day which I attended before I went to Svalbard. At Bisley shooting range I met a team of five women who were working together on a scientific expedition traveling in the arctic circle. They are from the Grantham Institute of Imperial College London. Their project is called The Ring of Fire and it aims to predict the impact of climate change by collecting data from various geothermal freshwater sites in the arctic circle.

The scientists came to Svalbard when I was there and we met up in Longyearbyen. I was interested to discover that they care deeply that the general public don't know what they are doing. This is an important project but they don't have a means of communicating their work to others who are not in the scientific research world. They want to find better ways of engaging with the public and explaining what they do. The women have extensive knowledge about climate change which is something I have found complicated on this journey. It is difficult to extract the climate change facts from the opinions that people have. One thing is for certain, climate change is in action here. Wood is rotting where it never has before, the ice and winds are more unpredictable than ever and for the first time since people have lived in Longyearbyen there have been mudslides and avalanches. People have been killed. The ground on the steep slopes of the glacial valley has become unstable because of the melting permafrost.

The poles are getting warmer at a faster rate than the rest of the planet, the sea temperature is increasing and fragile ecosystems are at risk. The receding ice is opening up the arctic to those who want to access the oil and gas that lies beneath. The Ring of Fire scientists are testing the water from geothermal hotspots around the arctic circle in order to try and predict what will happen as water temperatures rise across the globe.

# Development, Collaboration And Dissemination

From my Fellowship already have sprung chance meetings, unexpected connections and surprising discussions. I have met many passionate, informed and inspiring people with whom I am making plans for future projects and events.

In order to raise money to work on the next stage I am organizing an exhibition of the work I made during my time as artist in residence at Battersea Park Children's Zoo. This is to be in Wiltshire on 30th November 2017. I will be spreading the word about my Fellowship at this exhibition in order to gain support for the book and future arctic work. I have already been invited by two local schools to give art and science printmaking workshops and this is something I will do more of as time goes on.

As my Fellowship has progressed there has been a natural development of project strands. These areas are already moving forward and have made progress in the twelve weeks I have been back in the UK.



*Arctic Terns. Watercolour*

## **Get Intrepid, an interactive app**

Users can interactively engage with my expedition.

I am working in partnership with Tudor Jenkins to create an app for Ipad called Get Intrepid. This is all about creating an interactive interface which families can use together to explore the world around them. We are building the framework and creating a pilot for the app using the material from my expedition. The app will be similar to the book in what it contains but the multimedia application means that people can actively engage with it. I will include film and audio as well as my writing and illustrations. Users will be able to follow my journey and explore Svalbard starting with an interactive map featuring the 360° photographs I took. They will be able to hear recordings of the seals singing and look at 'spinners', rotatable interactive images, of the fossils and rocks I collected. This will also allow me to include work by other contributors building a rich and multifaceted experience.

## **Arctic adventure week at ONCA, Brighton**

Arctic Adventure Week is an interactive exhibition taking place in February 2018 in collaboration with ONCA gallery for art and ecology in Brighton. It will be an exhibition of my work in progress; sketchbooks, photographs and prints as well as short films and audio clips produced by other artists from the Antigua expedition.

Giles Miller from the Natural History Museum and I will talk about rocks and fossils from the perspectives of artist and scientist. We will have printmaking workshops for children and we will exhibit Gunzburger's polar bear print and the video of us moving it on the ice. There will be an interactive story about Arctic Adventure for children and families and I will give a presentation about my journey. The event will essentially be an actual version of this report, a celebration of my Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship where visitors can participate and explore science and nature through art.

People will be able to handle the rocks and fossils I collected and have a go at making their own artwork..

## Summer in Svalbard, an Arctic Adventure

An illustrated non-fiction book for children.

I have met with my literary agent Elinor Cooper and discussed the material I have so far. The book I am writing is for children aged 7 -11 it is the story of this expedition jam packed with drawings, paintings, animal facts and arctic fun.

If you want to know how ice floats and why whale poos are pink then this is the book for you.



*Polar bear illustration*

## Etchings, collagraph and artwork for exhibition

In February 2019 I plan to have an exhibition of artwork from my Arctic Adventure. This will consist of a journey starting with drawings of Foraminifera from the Heron Allen Library at the Natural History Museum, exploring printmaking techniques and etching, and ending with large photographs of Tiny Planets; my inverted 360° photographs taken when I was standing on a floating chunk of sea ice only 700 miles from the north pole.



*My first experiment at collagraph*

### **A presentation about my Fellowship for the art and science interest group at the Natural History Museum, London**

I am continuing to work with Giles Miller at the Natural History Museum. I will continue my blog alongside his and build it up into a more permanent feature. My absolute end goal is to see an art room and more gallery space in the Natural History Museum.

I have been invited to give a presentation about my Fellowship at the Science and Art Interest Group meeting at the NHM on 12th December 2017.

Dr Sarah Harpenslager, one of the scientists from the Ring of Fire Research Project is keen to work with me on some collaborative public outreach ideas. In October 2017 we both attended a workshop at the British Ecological Society where we put forward proposals for a geology workshop and an interactive presentation about what researchers do. This project has been granted funding by the BES and will feature as a workshop in Arctic Adventure Week.

Sarah is part of a women in STEM group, aiming to promote the profile of women in science technology engineering and mathematics. Through creating Arctic Adventure Week I have discovered STEM Sussex, an organisation who run a program of STEM ambassadors and STEM based projects in local schools. I have a meeting with them to discuss how we could work together to deliver art and science to local children, specifically to encourage girls to take an interest in these subjects.

# Conclusion

From the very beginning of my journey, existing Fellows and the team at the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, have emphasised the fact that the process will produce unexpected outcomes and repercussions far beyond those initially sought.

This has indeed been the case. I did not suppose, as I set out to look at nature in the arctic circle, that I would end up heading my own expedition to Kapp Belvedere, searching for fossilised worms teeth in a frozen gully with puffins flying about my head.

I had not expected to be making an app with a virtual reality expert, nor to be giving a presentation to the scientists at the Natural History Museum; I never envisioned that going on a polar bear protection course would put me in contact with an inspirational group of female scientists and bring me the support of the British Ecological Society.

I have forged relationships with people from all over the world, people who want to work together to bring the wonder of nature to the eyes and minds of children and families. Together we have seeded the beginnings of ongoing projects which will enrich my work and take it forward, beyond the book about Svalbard in summer, beyond etchings of mountains and ice, into a future rich with possibilities and exciting opportunities.

# References

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<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/nature?q=Nature> Retrieved November 2017

Carson, R. (1986) *The Earth Speaks*

Chicago: The institute for earth education

The British Ecological Society

[www.britishecologicalsociety.org](http://www.britishecologicalsociety.org)

ONCA Gallery and performance space specialising in creative learning for children.

[www.onca.org.uk](http://www.onca.org.uk)

UNIS the university centre in Svalbard.

[www.unis.no](http://www.unis.no)

Have a look at their live camera at <http://longyearbyen.kystnor.no/>

STEM Sussex. Committed to supporting and encouraging young people to actively and enjoyably engage with Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM)

[www.stemsussex.co.uk](http://www.stemsussex.co.uk)

Imperial College London. Grantham Institute, Climate change and the environment.

[www.granthaminstitute.com](http://www.granthaminstitute.com)

Read about the ring of fire research here:

<https://granthaminstitute.com/2017/07/03/into-the-ring-of-fire-arctic-adventures-to-predict-the-impact-of-climate-change/>

To read more about Svalbard on my blog: [www.beatricevonpreussen.blog](http://www.beatricevonpreussen.blog)

And to see more images online: [www.instagram.com/beatricevonpreussen](http://www.instagram.com/beatricevonpreussen)

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Sarah Gerats and the arctic circle artist residency program.

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust.

# Itinerary

11 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	Heathrow - Oslo - Longyearbyen
12 <sup>th</sup> June	Board the Antigua, begin travelling North
15 <sup>th</sup> June	Reach the ice edge. Furthest North 79°56,6' N
25 <sup>th</sup> June	Disembark at Longyearbyen.
28 <sup>th</sup> July	Longyearbyen - Oslo - Heathrow



*Voyage path of the Antigua*

