



# ONCE WERE FORESTS

JANET LAURENCE | ARC ONE GALLERY

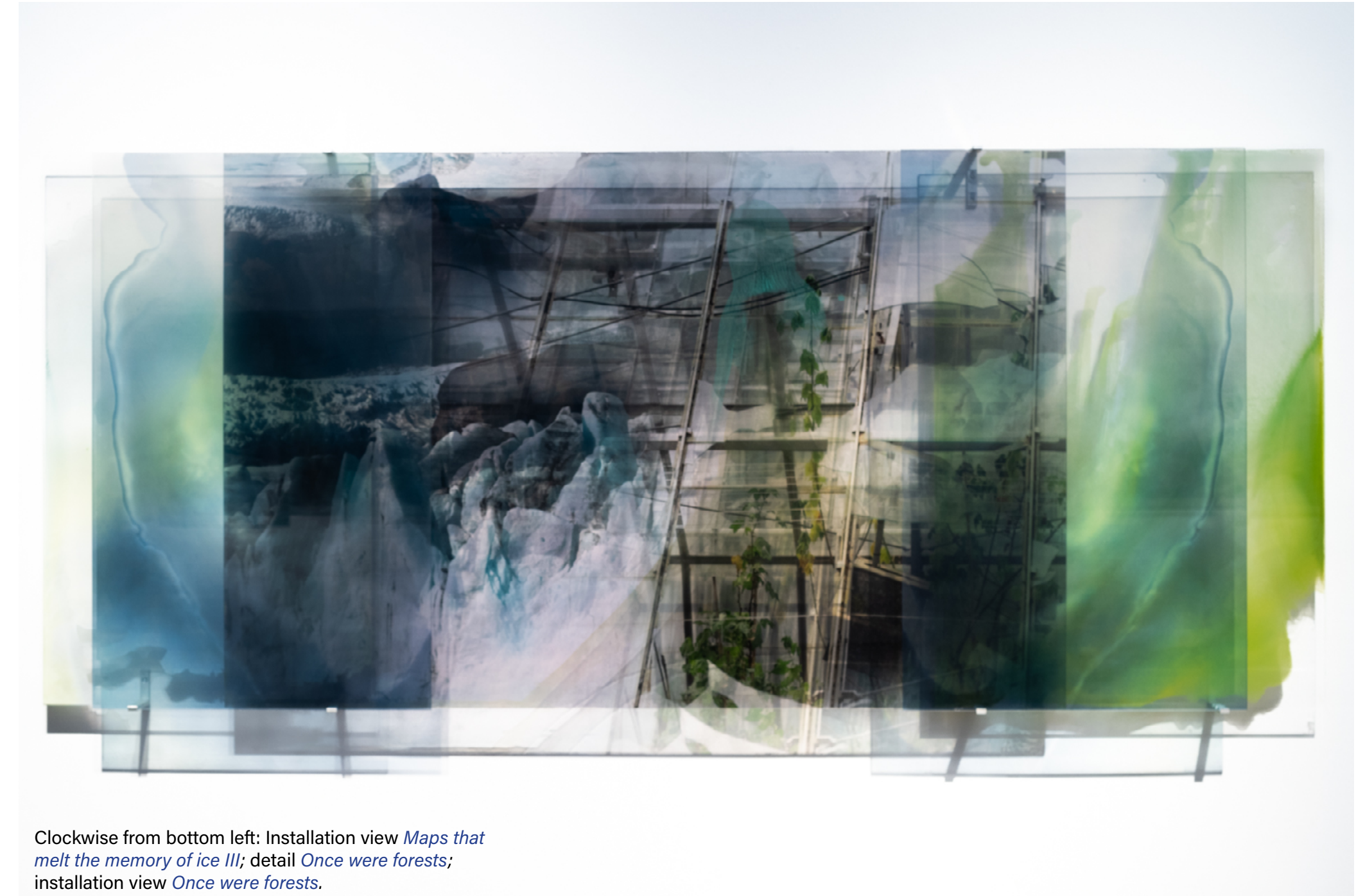
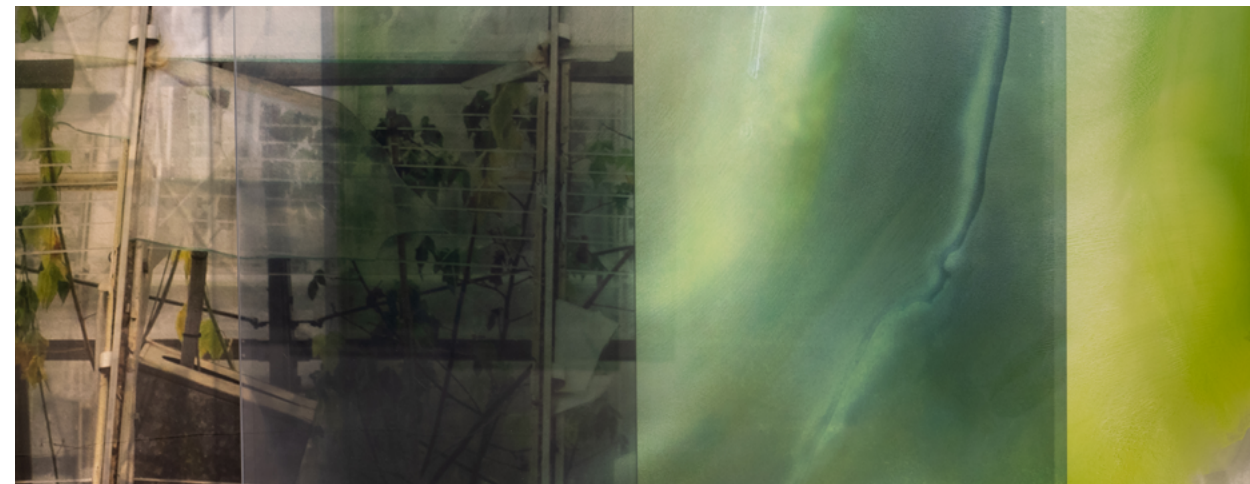


Janet Laurence's [ONCE WERE FORESTS](#) takes its inspiration from two extreme weather events that Laurence witnessed, as well as her experiences in Antarctica, following her 2021 Antarctic Arts Fellowship.

The first event was in western Iceland, where Laurence and a small group of mourners attended a funeral for the Okjokull glacier. The second was a freak hailstorm in Canberra which devastated the city and caused an estimated 1.65 billion dollars in damage. The CSIRO glasshouses and the climate research they contained lay in ruins under shards of glass and ice.

[ONCE WERE FORESTS](#) layers scenes and landscapes from these events with veils of grief, and ghostly sheets of ice. This elegiac work represents her continuing investigation into the fragility of our world, from a fresh and deeply poignant vantage point.

*All photos taken by Prue Stent for Arc One Gallery.*



Clockwise from bottom left: Installation view *Maps that melt the memory of ice III*; detail *Once were forests*; installation view *Once were forests*.

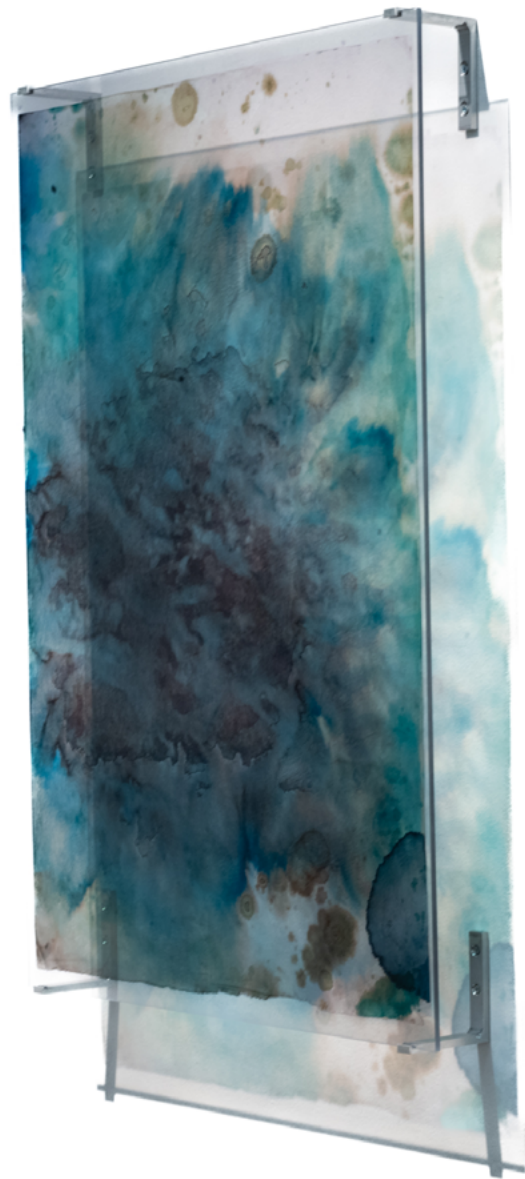




Left to right: Installation view *Ice Remembers Ash*;  
Gallery view *Once were forests*







Left to right: Installation views *Maps that melt the memory of ice III*; Gallery view *Albedo and the Spectrum*





Left to right: Installation view *The blue of time*; Gallery view *Once were forests*

