

JOURNAL · BEHIND THE WORK

Territories of Ice

Ice in its many states: glacier fronts, icebergs and drifting floes from Svalbard, the Arctic Ocean and Patagonia. A series about pressure, movement and time.

ABOUT THE SERIES

What appears to be solid form is already part of a process.

At first glance, ice seems to be the most permanent thing a landscape has to offer. A glacier front stretching across the entire horizon, an iceberg the size of a house: it all looks like eternity. Yet the longer you look, the clearer it becomes that none of it stands still. The ice breaks, drifts and turns to water.

With *Territories of Ice* we set out to photograph exactly this contradiction. The series shows ice in its many states: as a monumental wall, as a drifting block, as transparent glass, as a field of broken floes. Each state is a moment in a long process, and each image holds a state that will never return in the same way.

What fascinates us most about these subjects are the traces the ice carries with it. Rust-red and brown bands of sediment tell of the path a glacier has taken. Trapped air bubbles show how snow was pressed into dense, clear ice over a long time. The deep blue appears where the ice is most compressed. You can almost read these forms like tree rings.

The series was created over several journeys. Most of it comes from Svalbard, where we travelled along glacier fronts and through drift ice in 2023. It also includes an aerial image from the Arctic Ocean and an iceberg on Lago Argentino in Patagonia from 2026.

What all the works share is the calm of their composition. We are not looking for the spectacle of a calving glacier, but for the moment before or after, when form, light and water are briefly in balance.

“Each work holds a state that will never return in the same way.”

ARCTIC

Svalbard

Glacier fronts with sediment veins, icebergs and clear drift ice. Four works, 2023.

ARCTIC

Arctic Ocean

Broken ice fields from the air, with the only human trace in the series. 2023.

SOUTH AMERICA

Patagonia

A glowing blue iceberg in the grey water of Lago Argentino. 2026.

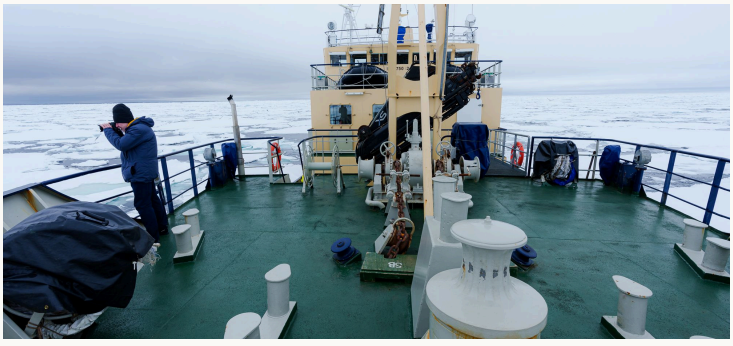


ON THE WAY · SVALBARD

By ship to the edges of the ice

Many of Svalbard's glacier fronts and drift-ice fields can hardly be reached from land. We therefore travelled on board the Virgo, a small expedition ship.

Most of our photographs were taken from the Zodiac, the small inflatable boat we went out in for hours at a time. It brought us close to glacier fronts and drifting ice, seen from just above the waterline. It often takes a long time for light, water and ice to come together, and then sometimes only minutes remain.



AT THE BOW IN PACK ICE



REMO THOMMEN ON DECK OF THE VIRGO

WORK 1 OF 6

Ice Edge

SVALBARD · 2023 · DIAMOND EDITION, UNIQUE PIECE 1/1

View the work: thommenfineart.com/en/werke/ice-edge ↗





DETAIL · SEDIMENT LINES IN THE GLACIER FRONT

A glacier front stretches across the entire horizon, streaked with rust-red lines of sediment. Above it hangs a dark storm front, yet the water below remains motionless, almost like a mirror.

The image was taken just before the weather changed. For us, it is the key work of the series: the sheer extent of the ice, the narrow band between sky and water and the calm before the storm tell in a single line what *Territories of Ice* is about.

> Ice Edge has been produced as a unique piece in the panoramic format 280 × 70 cm: fine art pigment print under matt acrylic glass, mounted on aluminium Dibond, in a black shadow-gap frame. The work can be viewed in our atelier in Flims.



WORK 2 OF 6

Ice Wall

SVALBARD · 2023

View the work: thommenfineart.com/en/werke/ice-wall ↗

In the first light, a tall wall of ice rises above dark water. Rust-red veins of sediment run through the deep blue, and a bank of cloud casts hard shadows on the front.

Compact and fractured ice alternate in clearly separated zones. Where Ice Edge shows the expanse, Ice Wall moves in close and reveals the structure of the glacier: its mass, its cracks and the traces of its journey.



WORK 3 OF 6

Blue Drift

LAGO ARGENTINO, PATAGONIA · 2026

View the work: thommenfineart.com/en/werke/blue-drift ↗

A large iceberg lies in grey lake water beneath a moving sky, with a snow-covered mountain range behind it. The compressed glacier ice glows deep blue and shows layers formed over centuries. Above it, the clouds move in the same direction as the drifting ice.



WORK 4 OF 6

Ice as Stone

SVALBARD · 2023 · RUBY EDITION

View the work: thommenfineart.com/en/werke/ice-as-stone ↗

What was below is now on top. The iceberg has turned and reveals its underside. The brown bands are sediments the glacier picked up on its way. They show that this iceberg is made of many layers and many times, and make it look almost like rock.



WORK 5 OF 6

Glass Ice

SVALBARD · 2023

View the work: thommenfineart.com/en/werke/glass-ice ↗

A broken-off block of ice drifts in calm water. Over a long time, pressure compressed the ice until it became as transparent as glass.

Trapped air bubbles and fine cracks trace its formation. It is the quietest image in the series and perhaps the most fragile: a piece of glacier that will soon turn back into water.



WORK 6 OF 6

The Passage

ARCTIC OCEAN · 2023 · EMERALD EDITION, 15 COPIES + 1 AP

View the work: thommenfineart.com/en/werke/the-passage ↗

Seen from above, a ship appears amid broken ice fields. It is the only work in the series with a human trace.

The narrow hull between the floes is what makes the scale of the ice measurable. The Passage closes the series with a view of a landscape in which humans are only guests.

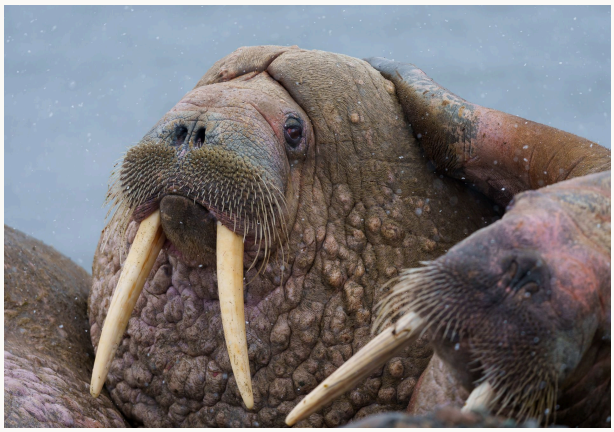
AT THE EDGE OF THE SERIES

Ice is also a habitat

Territories are not only landscapes, they are also home ranges. Between the glacier fronts we encountered the animals for whom this ice is home: polar bears at the edge of the floe, belugas surfacing right in front of them, bearded seals and walruses resting on the ice and along the coast. They are deliberately left out of the series itself. Yet they remind us that every piece of ice that melts is also a piece of habitat.



BEARDED SEAL



WALRUS IN FALLING SNOW

EXPERIENCE THE SERIES

Ice that stays: as a fine art print on your wall.

All six works of *Territories of Ice* are available as fine art prints, signed, numbered and with a certificate of authenticity. The size of a work has a great influence on its effect. The panoramas and glacier fronts in particular only unfold their full power in large format.

Viewing print

Request a free A4 viewing print and check colour and paper in daylight in your own space.

Artwork & Room

See every work online in different rooms or on a photo of your own wall.

Atelier Flims

Visit us by appointment and see Ice Edge in its original format of 280 × 70 cm.



ICE EDGE



ICE WALL



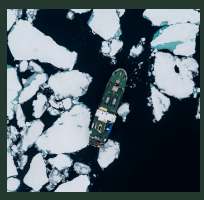
BLUE DRIFT



ICE AS STONE



GLASS ICE



THE PASSAGE

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