

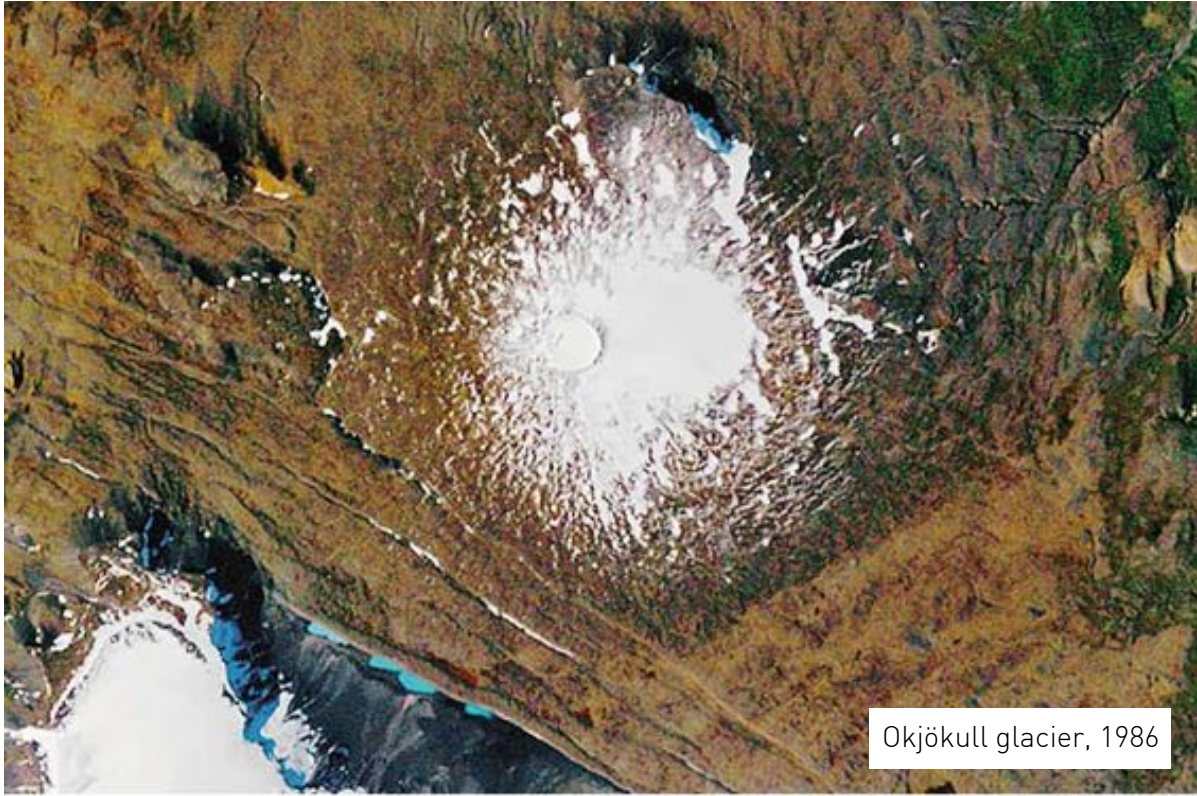
TIPPING POINT

Barthélemy Antoine-Lœff



TIPPING POINT
POINT DE BASCULE

The point at which a series of small changes or incidents becomes significant enough to cause a larger, more important change.



Okjökull glacier, 1986



Okjökull glacier, 2019

Bref til framtíðarinnar

Ok er fyrsti nafnkunni jökullinn til að missa titil sinn.
Á næstu 200 árum er talið að allir jöklar landsins fari sömu leið.
Þetta minnismerki er til vitnis um að við vitum
hvað er að gerast og hvað þarf að gera.
Aðeins þú veist hvort við gerðum eitthvað.

A letter to the future

Ok is the first Icelandic glacier to lose its status as a glacier.
In the next 200 years all our glaciers are expected to follow the same path.
This monument is to acknowledge that we know
what is happening and what needs to be done.
Only you know if we did it.

Ágúst 2019
415ppm CO₂

Memorial placed at the site of
the glacier Okjökull in august

In 2014, the icelandic glacier Okjökull dies. It's the *first icelandic glacier* officially recognized as extinct due to climate change and the human activities on the earth system.

The satellite images taken in 1986 and 2019 are quite striking. On the wiki page of the glacier, we can now read that its maximum area is 0 km². In august 2019, a commemorative plaque has been placed at the very place where the glacier stood, with the presence of the Icelandic Prime Minister, of the Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources, led by an American researcher, Cymene Howe, who came to study the impact of the disappearance of glaciers on the local population

It took thousands of years for the glaciers to appear and a few dozen years for the first glacier to be extinguished due to human activities. It will *probably* not be the first time that a glacier disappear. But in living memory, this is *probably* a first, and *probably* not the last glacier extinction that we will see.

This tragedy from which it is difficult to escape today represents, by itself, a Tipping Point both climatic - a giant that disappear - and human - the official recognition of the phenomenon. A tipping point toward the New Climate Regime (to use Bruno Latour's expression) with which we will have to deal... whatever our choices.

According to the latest IPCC report, it is estimated that our glaciers in our latitudes are expected to lose 80% of their ice mass by 2100.

Two billion people will be directly impacted by the disappearance of these glaciers.



Ice Stupa, Ladakh

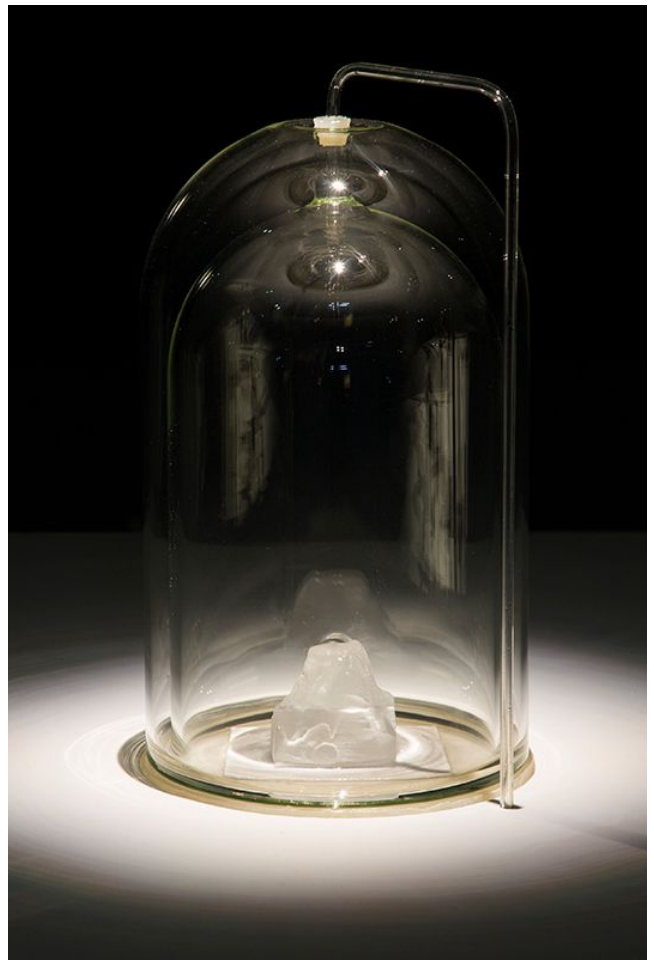
The installation *Tipping Point* is a sensitive and poetic work inviting the viewer to observe the birth of an artificial glacier, drop by drop, inspired by the “ice stupas” which have started to flourish in Ladakh since 2014, under the leadership of Sonam Wangchuk who updated an ancestral knowledge named the glacier grafting. Those artificial glaciers are intended to fight against water shortages during major droughts.

Under a confined and controlled environment, almost “in vitro” to isolate the ice embryo from any external disturbance, an infused glacier grows drop by drop.

Contemporary vanity evoking our desire for immortality, it will take... the time of the exhibition for the glacier to begin to look like something, drop by drop, confronting the viewer to the time it took for the earth system to create this glacier, elsewhere, in actual size, 10,000 years ago.

The exercise is, *a priori*, disappointing for the viewer whose looking for something that is no longer or that is not yet. However, the installation leaves room for the contemplation of what has been and what it may become : a now extinct glacier or a new glacier in formation, as a physical materialization of the tipping points or the New Climate Regime that are taking place.

The poetics released by the installation does not stop only at this question of the tipping point. So much analogy can be found with the thorny question of repairing a disturbed climate, the control of the human being on its environment through industrialization or the accessibility to drinking water which will become rare in the years to come... or an evocation of a laboratory of the living.



Tipping Point - Installation - Barthélemy Antoine-Loeff - 2020



evolution of the glacier during several days
exhibition « champs libres » - MAIF Social Club



video documentation of the installation
<https://vimeo.com/400256469>

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Tipping Point is a complex installation due to the multiplicity of techniques used; it's a fragile artistic object. It is a deliberate, both aesthetic (appealing to the sensitive), technological (it seems absurd to deploy an energy monster to talk about the environment).

Space: the environment in which the installation is deployed must be controlled. If the refrigeration device is relatively robust, it will not withstand prolonged extreme temperature peaks; the external temperature of rupture is estimated between 27 ° c and 30 ° c.

Description of the installation: the visible part of the installation is in the form of a double glass bell equipped with a vacuum drawn air blade (insulation) placed on a stand. A tube made of glasses (diameter of 6mm, thickness of the glass 1.5mm) comes out of the base to meet the top of the glass bell. This tube is used to transport the drop of water. The assembly is insulated via a silicone plug (at the top) and a layer of silicone cast at the base (seam) of the bell, serving as both an airtight seal and a hydrophobic surface.

The invisible part of the installation (in the base) contains the entire technical device, both for the production of cold (Peltier cell, heat sinks, ventilation), the water tank and the delivery of the drop (Mariotte vase, valve and pump), the control system (arduino), the 12v power supply and aeration system.

Power consumption: the average power consumption of the installation is 70 watts for a given temperature of -10 ° c to -17 ° c at the base. A temperature sensor is used to regulate the installation. The venue must provide a stable 220v line, equipped if possible with an inverter. This line can never be disconnected during the duration of the exhibition. An electrical cut would result in an extremely rapid heating of the bell, due to the Peltier cell which would no longer be powered. This electric line can never be disconnected during the duration of the exhibition.

Switching on / off the installation: automatic.

Monitoring: a dedicated web page is set up. The web page allows you to check the correct operation of the installation as well as the time remaining before the next drop.

URL: <http://tippingpoint.local:2019>

Frequency of the drops: each 30 minutes.

Type of water: demineralized water only.

Lightning: if possible, light sources that do not emit heat.

Glacier starter: access to a freezer is necessary to create (freeze) the « first glacier » (a cube about 6 cm wide) which will be used as a starter for the installation.

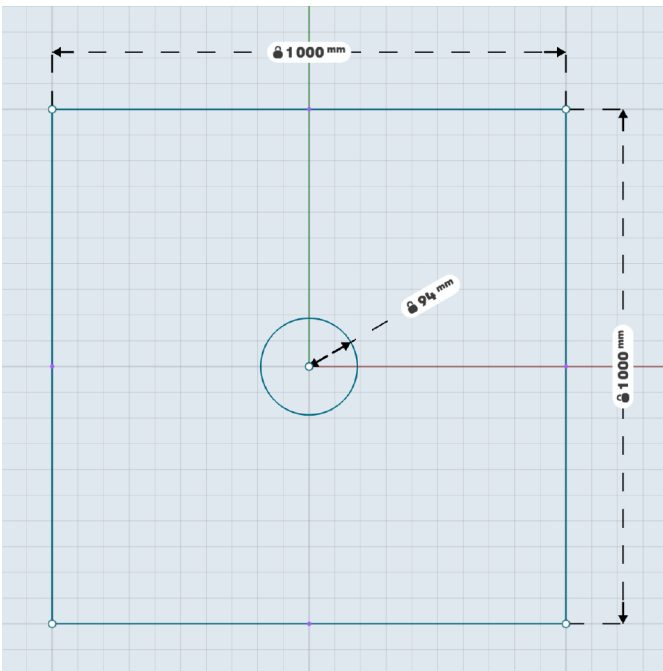
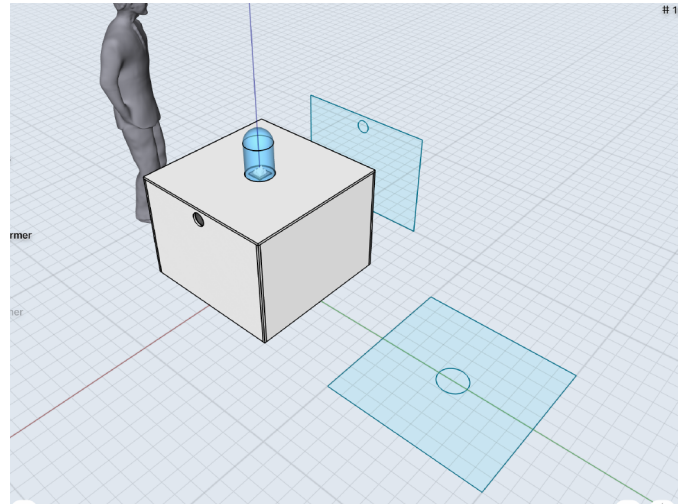
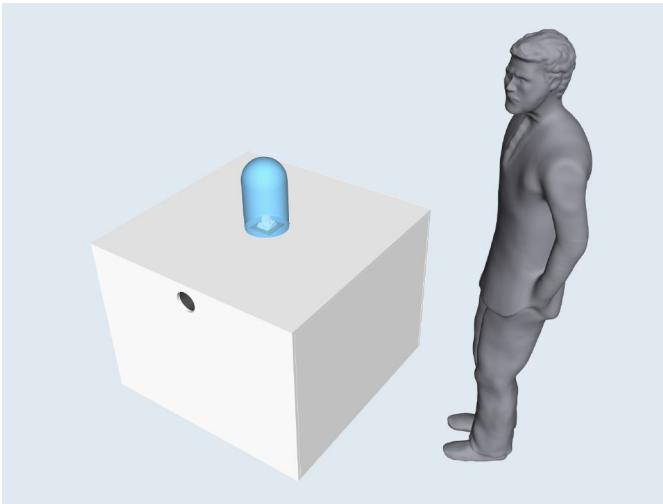
External dimensions of the base: (l) 1000 mm x (L) 1000 mm x (h) 750 mm

Provide a technical hatch that can be dismantled (technical reserve) and accessible in case of problems.

Color of the base: white

Dimensions of the transport box: 1 box, size 66 x 66 x 54 cm, weight 45kg

Dimensions of the pedestal if needed: 1 socle, dim. 1000cm * 1000cm * 70cm, poids 42kg

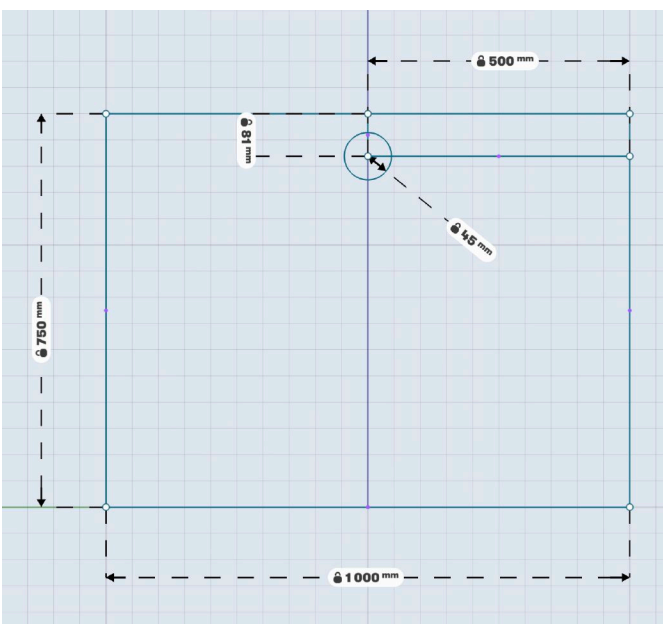


Top of the base:

Thickness: about 17 mm

Central cut of a circle with a diameter of 188 mm (radius 94 mm).

This cutout allows the refrigeration device to be placed and held from below while securing the glass bell.



Right and left faces of the base:

Cutting a circle 90 mm in diameter (45 mm radius).



BARTHELEMY ANTOINE-LÖEFF

né en 1982 à Schaerbeek (Bruxelles, Belgique)

Barthélemy Antoine-Lœff is a visual artist whose creations of optical and digital artworks, sometimes interactive, often immersive, express dreamlike worlds crossed by a contemplative and ecological relationship of nature and elements. The artist creates spaces for sharing his feelings about the "forces" of the world: dreams, energies, materials, technologies. Refusing to place himself in the field of the Kantian sublime, he positions himself at the place of wonder and infantile craze, as if to claim the part of the dream that we develop as a child and which remains forever our "desiring motor" throughout our life. Resolutely focused on ecological questions, his current research leads him to question the irony behind the profitability of repairing the climate, the disappearance of the cryosphere and its impact on our lifestyles, as well as the energy cost of the exhibitions. (Nicolas Rosette, curator)

In 2016, his work *Ljós* is nominated to the **International Digital Art Prize, Prix Cube**. In 2017, he presents his first solo exhibition "Inlandsis" at the cultural center of Gentilly..

Barthélemy Antoine-Loeff lives and works in Paris.

His works are exhibited in numerous festivals and venues in France and abroad: CMODA (Beijing, China), Voltaje (Bogota, Colombia), Le Cube (Paris, France), Maif Social Club (Paris, Fr), Mirage Festival (Lyon, Fr), Gaité-Lyrique (Paris, FR), Biennale Némó (Paris, FR), Théâtre les Ateliers (Lyon, France), Biennale Siana (Evry, France), Festival RVBn (Bron, France), Festival Croisements (China), Mapping Festival (Genèves, Switzerland), Current New Media Festival (Santa Fe, US), BAM Festival (Liège, Belgium), L'arc scène nationale (Le Creusot, France), Vidéoformes (Clermont-Ferrand, France), CHB (Berlin, Germany), Mains d'Œuvres (Saint-Ouen, France)...

CV: <https://ibal.tv/CV>

Press: <https://ibal.tv/Press>

Website: <http://ibal.tv>

CONTACTS

Tel: +33 6 81 71 44 86

Mail: bart@ibal.tv

Web: <http://www.ibal.tv>