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Alliance of artists, scientists, and a list of deceased glaciers head to Nuuk for Greenland Science Week

A unique joining of forces between a multidisciplinary collaboration of artists (Sermit | Jöklar) and a large EU-funded research consortium (ICELINK) aims to spotlight the stark reality of the impacts of climate change on glaciers and to inspire discussion about the profound implications for the region and how its communities can adapt.

What do a research consortium, an artist collab, and an ever-expanding list of deceased glaciers have in common? They're all going to be appearing together this month at Greenland Science Week 2025. Held biennially in Nuuk, Greenland's capital city, Greenland Science Week is a festival celebrating Greenland knowledge and research with a multidisciplinary conference and a multitude of public outreach activities, workshops, and seminars. Between Nov 10th to 14th, this eclectic collaboration is aiming to take festival visitors on an emotive journey under the shadow of a warming climate through the disappearance of a single piece of ice to the ever-expanding list of disappearing glaciers world-wide and finally to the work of the cutting-edge ICELINK consortium who's working to improve understanding of the future of Greenland's and Iceland's ice and how we might best adapt to these changes.

Scientists have long been warning about the consequences of burning fossil fuels and the resulting rapid mass loss of glaciers and ice caps globally due to climate change. Record losses of ice in Greenland and Iceland mean more freshwater flowing into the North Atlantic, which could affect atmospheric and oceanic circulation in the future. So far, the consequences of these changes are not well-understood, but local and regional authorities will need to prepare. This is where ICELINK comes in. The project's goal is to improve our knowledge and understanding of how land ice in the North Atlantic region will respond to climate change and how these changes will impact local climate and ecosystems. Working closely with local stakeholders, like utility companies, government services, and industry, ICELINK will ensure that this new knowledge reaches those who can help prepare for what's to come.

It's a strong and urgent message, but it's increasingly falling on deaf ears. When you hear an alarm so often it stops being alarming, it's called *alert fatigue,* and the artist collaboration Sermit | Jöklar is helping to change this. Through a medley of visual and immersive art, they aim to help festival-goers build an emotional connection to the loss of our glaciers. Together with information about ICELINK's research and goals, the exhibit will showcase a glacier ice sculpture melting both before your eyes and under a microscope as well as a preview of the artists' short film, *Bye Bye Glacier*; a cinematic kaleidoscope that captures the release of ancient minerals, sediments, and air bubbles as a glacier melts, undoing centuries of nature's efforts, ultimately leading the viewer through the

stages of grief as a glacier dies. Combined with an interactive portal into the ever-expanding Global Glacier Casualty List that tells stories of the many glaciers that have been officially declared deceased due to climate change, the hope is that it will be easier for people to relate to the work of projects like ICELINK that are aiming to help civilization both navigate through and adapt to climate-driven changes.

Collaborations between art and science are increasingly important, not only because they can help counteract this alert fatigue, but adding a creative, artistic element to a science project can enhance communication, foster discussion and innovation, and provide a much-needed fresh perspective. If done well, science-art collaborations at public exhibits can also increase the accessibility of science messages and provide meaning and relevance to more people.

Watch out for all the ICELINK and Sermit | Jöklar activities at Greenland Science Week, from Monday 10 to Friday 14 November. The team is going to be busy:

- Monday:
    - Cryosphere side event of research talks about all things icy, including interactive Sermit | Jöklar activities and an ICELINK project talk (GUX Nuuk; open to all);
    - all-day Sermit | Jöklar + ICELINK exhibit (Nuuk Center foyer; open to all);
- Tuesday:
    - engagement meeting with local stakeholders, including utility companies, government representatives, and transportation agencies (Asiaq; open to all potential stakeholders);
    - all-day Sermit | Jöklar + ICELINK exhibit (Nuuk Center foyer; open to all);
- Wednesday and Thursday (the science conference):
    - talk by ICELINK's lead, Prof. Christine Schøtt Hvidberg (Wed. morning in Lillesalen, Katuaq);
    - ICELINK poster with team members (Wed. afternoon; Katuaq foyer);
    - art workshop with Sermit | Jöklar at a local school, giving kids the opportunity to work with ancient glacial material to create their own artistic expressions (closed event);
- Friday (Qaagitsi, the public science festival, will bring together researchers and the wider community):
    - All-day joint Sermit | Jöklar + ICELINK exhibit (Katuaq flyer; open to all);
    - art workshop with Sermit | Jöklar (upstairs in NAPA; open to all).

Full program and specific times for Greenland Science Week are available here.

About Sermit | Jöklar: Sermit | Jöklar is a multidisciplinary collaboration between Icelandic and Greenlandic artists aimed at raising awareness of climate change by making art and short films focusing on the glaciers of both regions. Included in the collaboration are visual artist and filmmaker Alberte Parnuuna; ceramicist Antonía Bergþórsdóttir; visual artist Íris María Leifsdóttir; and visual artist and filmmaker Vikram Pradhan.

Their short film *Bye Bye Glacier* explores the melting of Greenlandic and Iceland glaciers from the perspective of the lens of a microscope. With footage and sound recordings from glaciers in both countries, including Narsap Sermia, Breiðamerkurjökull, Hoffellsjökull, and Svínafellsjökull, the film showcases the transformation of ancient minerals, sediment, and air bubbes coming alive and escaping their centuries-old icy tomb. Over 5 chapters themed by the stages of grief human's experience in response to death, the film assigns human qualities to glaciers to help us understand their vital cultural, economic, and environmental importance to our communities.

For more information about the work of Sermit | Jöklar and its members, contact irisleifs@gmail.com or visit their respective websites: www.siorssuk.com // www.antoniaberg.is // www.irisleifs.is // www.vikrampradhan.cargo.site.

About the Global Glacier Casualty List: The Global Glacier Casualty List (GGCL) is a dynamic platform to visualize recently disappeared and soon-to-disappear glaciers and to tell about how these glaciers' disappearances are impacting communities. Thousands of glaciers have already disappeared due to human-caused climate change, which is directly linked to fossil fuel use. At the rate the world is warming now, all glaciers are endangered. While there is no comprehensive list of all the world's vanishing glaciers to date, the GGCL is an important start. Its completion will depend on the world's scientists, civil society organizations, government representatives, and community leaders joining this effort to share the stories of glaciers at risk.

The GGCL project was founded in 2024 through a collaboration between Rice University, the University of Iceland, the Iceland Glaciological Society, the World Glacier Monitoring Service, and UNESCO. The project is strongly in support the UN's designation of 2025 as the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation and the first World Glacier Day, which will be held annually on March 21, beginning in 2025.

For more information or if you have a glacier story you wish to include in the GGCL, reach out to glaciersarelife@rice.edu. You can visit the GGCL portal online here.

About the ICELINK Consortium: ICELINK a Horizon Europe consortium of 11 institutions in 7 European countries aiming to advance knowledge of impact of climate change on north Atlantic land ice by improving linkages between observations and models. The project has a strong focus on stakeholder co-development and dissemination of new knowledge, needed to support adaptation strategies, mitigate risks, and enhance resilience.

With a budget of about 7.5 million euros between 2025-2029, ICELINK represents a significant contribution to the Horizon Europe program's Pillar II, Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness. The ICELINK consortium brings together universities, meteorological and research institutions from Iceland, Denmark, Greenland, Austria, Belgium, Germany, and Spain, including: University of Iceland, University of Copenhagen, Technical University of Denmark (DTU), Greenland Survey (ASIAQ), University of Liège, Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS), Icelandic Met Office, Danish Meteorological Institute (DMI), Environmental Earth

Observation Information Technology (ENVEO) GmbH, Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI), and the Basque Centre for Climate Change (BC3).

More information about the ICELINK consortium is available by contacting the project's Communications Lead, Timothy James (tdj@hi.is), on the project website (icelink-project.eu), and on the EU's public repository and portal, CORDIS.

About Asiaq: Asiaq Greenland Survey is the national authority for surveying and research related to the physical, non-living environment in Greenland. Wholly owned by the Government of Greenland (Naalakkersuisut), Asiaq collects, archives, analyses, and disseminates essential data to enable the planning and sustainable exploitation of the country's physical environment and natural resources. For more information about Asiaq Greenland Survey, contact asiaq@asiaq.gl or visit to the Asiaq website.

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