

Higher Seminar

Climate Change and the New Polar Aesthetics, Artists Reimagine the Arctic and Antarctic

By Lisa E. Bloom

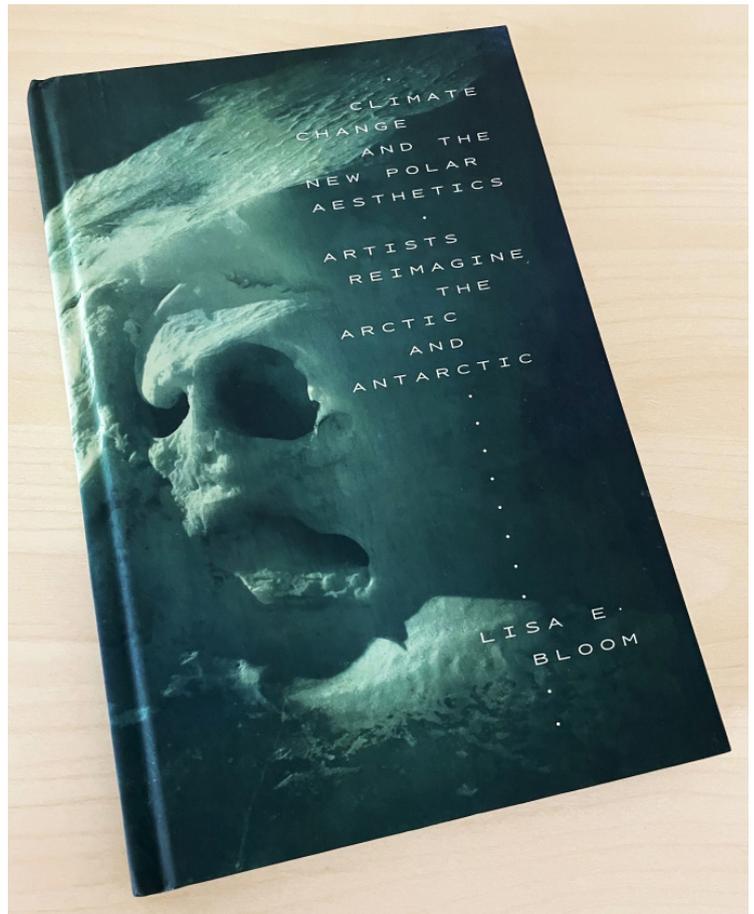
November 15, 2022 at 15.00-16.30
Room LO215 at Södertörn University

Lisa E. Bloom is an American cultural critic, educator and feminist art historian specializing in polar studies, contemporary art. At this seminar she will present and discuss her latest book, *Climate Change and the New Polar Aesthetics, Artists Reimagine the Arctic and Antarctic*. In print in October 2022.

Arranged by **ART FOREST** and **Comparative Literature and Aesthetics**.

In *Climate Change and the New Polar Aesthetics, Artists Reimagine the Arctic and Antarctic* Lisa E. Bloom considers the way artists, filmmakers, and activists in the Arctic and Antarctic represent our current environmental crises and reconstruct public understandings of them. Bloom engages feminist, Black, Indigenous, and non-Western perspectives to address the exigencies of the experience of the Anthropocene and its attendant ecosystem failures, rising sea levels, and climate-led migrations. As opposed to mainstream media depictions of climate change that feature apocalyptic spectacles of distant melting ice and desperate polar bears, artists such as Katja Aglert, Subhankar Banerjee, Joyce Campbell, Judit Hersko, Roni Horn, Isaac Julien, Zacharias Kunuk, Connie Samaras, and activist art collectives take a more complex poetic and political approach. In their films and visual and conceptual art, these artists link climate change to its social roots in colonialism and capitalism while challenging the suppression of information about environmental destruction and critiquing Western art institutions for their complicity. Bloom's examination and contextualization of new polar aesthetics makes environmental degradation more legible while demonstrating that our own political agency is central to imagining and constructing a better world.

Lisa E. Bloom is the author of *Gender on Ice: American Ideologies of Polar Expeditions* (University of Minnesota Press, 1993), which is one of the earliest critical books on the Arctic and Antarctic from a feminist perspective, and an edited anthology entitled *With Other Eyes: Looking at Race and Gender in Visual Culture* (University of Minnesota Press, 1999). Her third book is titled, *Jewish Identities in U.S. Feminist Art: Ghosts of Ethnicity* (London: Routledge, 2006). She has taught at numerous universities and art schools over the years and is currently at the University of California, Berkeley, as a scholar-in-residence at the Beatrice Bain Center in the Department of Gender and Women's Studies.



After the seminar Art Forest invites all participants for some refreshments and light snacks.

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