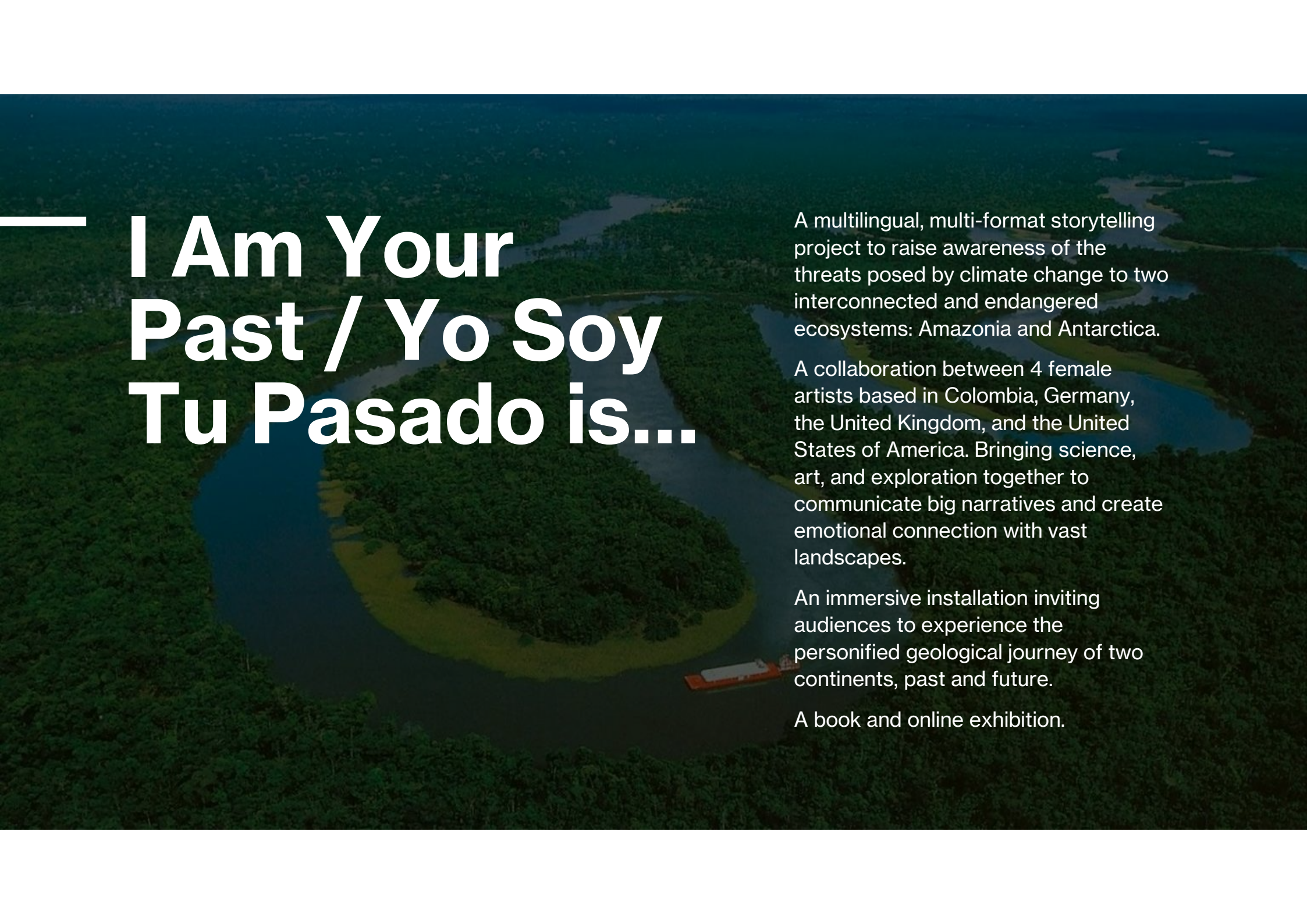


The Giant Tabular Iceberg floats in Antarctica's Ross Sea
PHOTO Camille Seaman

I AM YOUR PAST YO SOY TU PASADO

A dialogue between Amazonia and the Antarctic
through letters, poetry, sound, and visual art.





I Am Your Past / Yo Soy Tu Pasado is...

A multilingual, multi-format storytelling project to raise awareness of the threats posed by climate change to two interconnected and endangered ecosystems: Amazonia and Antarctica.

A collaboration between 4 female artists based in Colombia, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. Bringing science, art, and exploration together to communicate big narratives and create emotional connection with vast landscapes.

An immersive installation inviting audiences to experience the personified geological journey of two continents, past and future.

A book and online exhibition.

Why Storytelling?

'No one will protect what they don't care about; and no one will care about what they have never experienced.'

David Attenborough

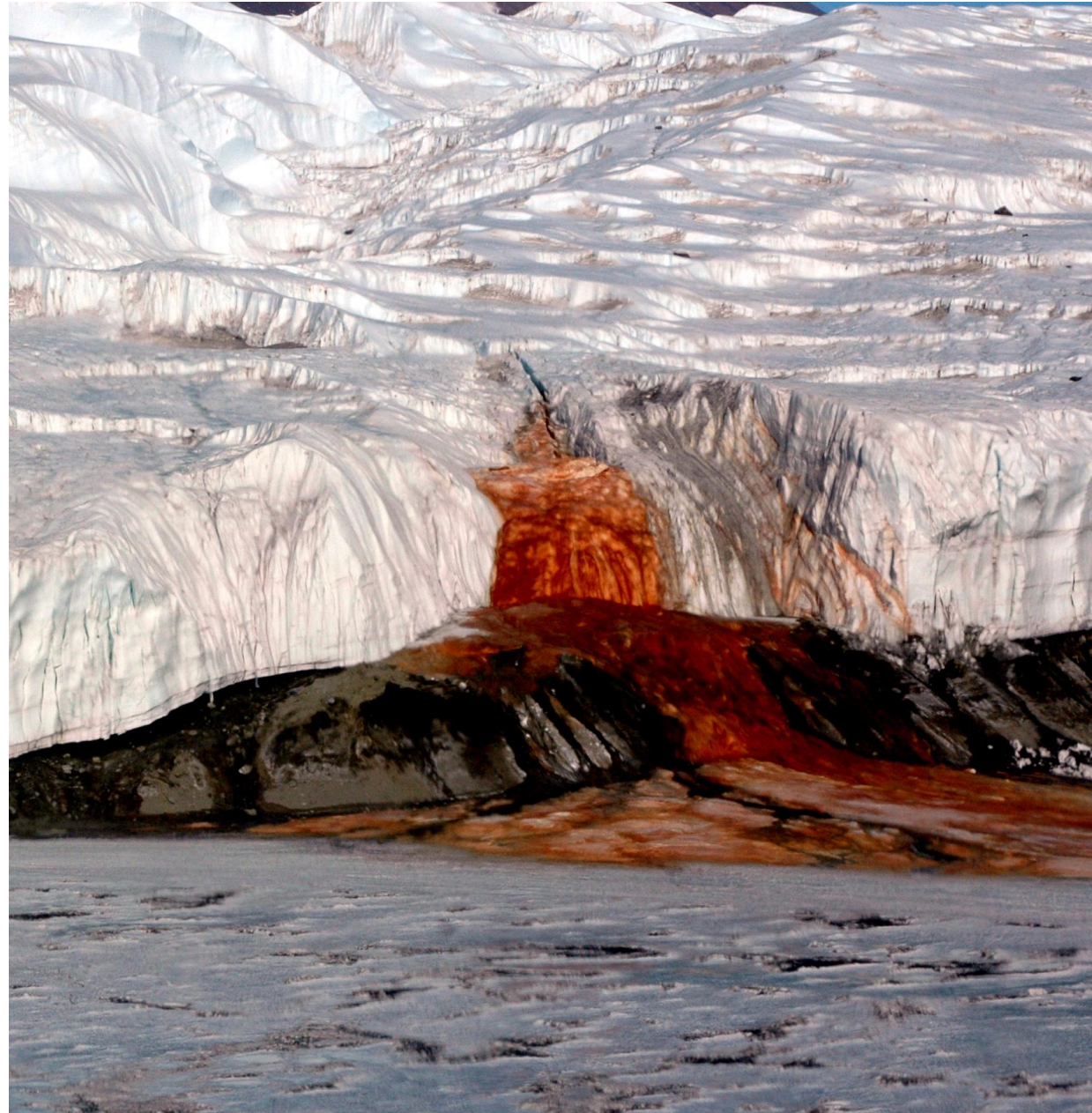
Climate change is a global emergency.

It is also the overarching story, the epic narrative, of our age. Climate change requires a response from us on a global, planetary scale, one which we have never mustered as a species: one of empathy, ingenuity, collaboration and imagination.

We will bring stories, scientific research, sound and visual art alive in a participatory installation that helps people engage empathetically: with other landscapes vital to our future and the lives of people who live in, depend on, and love those landscapes.

Stories are often misunderstood. We think they reflect our reality. But in fact story *creates* reality;

Blood Falls at the mouth of Taylor Glacier in East Antarctica, PHOTO National Science Foundation



I am your past, it whispers. I am your past...

Carried by the winds originating in the tropical latitudes, the message travels south in a long, meandering journey across the hemisphere, over the Drake Passage into West Antarctica. *I am your green paaaaasssst...*

Its breath bears pieces of a distant forest, minuscule particles of leaves and burnt wood, aerosols of red soil and whiffs of sweet vanillas. As it falls on the massive face of the Thwaites Glacier, the airy missive unfurls like the sail of a vessel.

Dear Mr. Antarctic glacier, please forgive my intrusion into your white existence. Allow me to introduce myself. I am the snow of the high Andes in Colombia, which melts into the water that flows down the rivers, runs across the jungle and flows out into the ocean. I write to you because I think we have something in common. You there, with your ice feet on the water, and me here, with the head kissing the clouds. Lately I feel light, as if I were being disrobed and can't quite cover the summit of my volcano. I am worried. Does this happen to you?

PS: Funny how your neighborhood used to be covered in trees, like the tropics today.

Text (above) © Angela Posada-Swofford

Painting (right) of Antarctica 100 million years ago
ARTIST: James McKay ; PHOTO: Elizabeth L. Williams





— ‘I am your past’

‘Imagination here is understood as a way of seeing, sensing, thinking, and dreaming the formation of knowledge, which creates the conditions for material interventions *in* and political sensibilities *of* the world.’

Climate Change and the Imagination Kathryn Yusoff and Jennifer Gabrys

‘I am your past,’ declares the Amazon to the Antarctic in the first of a sequence of letters which begins our project. Antarctica was covered, 100 million years ago, in lush temperate forests. The speed of warming on the Antarctic Peninsula makes conceivable a future where the continent is forested once again. Indeed, Antarctica is beginning to turn green, as its edges are insidiously colonized by vegetation. At the same time, the Amazon is losing both rainfall and resiliency. The relentless pace of change in both ecosystems has profound implications for biodiversity, carbon storage, and transformation on a global scale.

Through the correspondence between these two landscapes, Amazonia and Antarctica will teach one another about the realities of their changing environments. And teach us all in the process.



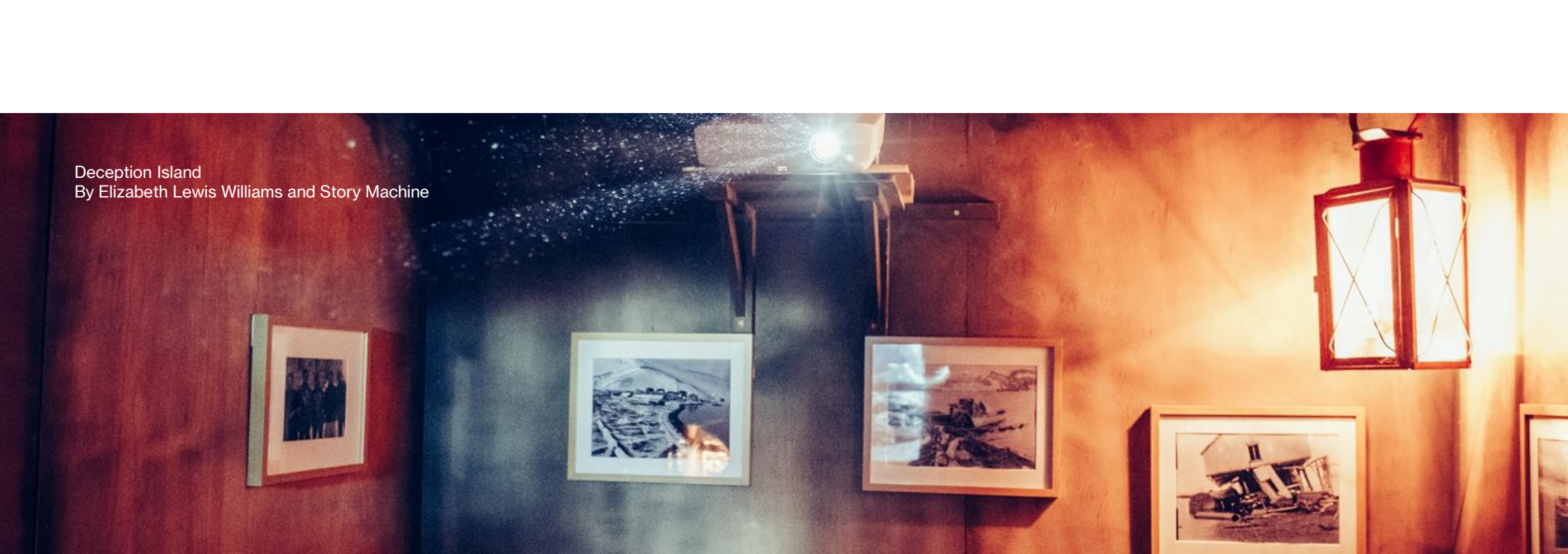
Science and Art Working Together

By mixing the languages of art and science, and connecting two ecosystems that people don't usually perceive as related in any way, we seek to awaken new ways of making connections in the audience, giving them a chance to form their own important conclusions.

Central to our methodology is working with diversity. The Antarctic and the Amazon are geographically distant, yet intimately connected and interdependent. Thus, what they share is more important than what separates them. This fact underpins our practice. We are an international group of women artists, representing the viewpoint of different generations. We will be working closely with scientists from the British, Colombian, German, Chilean, and US Antarctic programs; with experts in biodiversity and conservation in the Amazon, and with archaeologists, anthropologists, and historians of both regions. Our collaboration and output will be multilingual, as well as multidisciplinary.

We are conscious, too, that there are non-human languages which need to be heard - communication among creatures, networks of trees and mycelium, the voices of air and water - and our multi-media approach will give them a space to be heard.

They will focus on, amongst other things, the biodiversity of the Amazon, the speeding up of glacial melt, the teleconnections of the tropics and the polar regions, and the history of human engagement with their envioning landscapes. The message will be lively and accessible, appealing to both the head and the heart.



Deception Island
By Elizabeth Lewis Williams and Story Machine

An Immersive Installation

'Ancient continents, floating over magma, perpetually adrift. Change. Constant. Driving evolution in a world that never ceases to decide its own geography...Six hundred and thirty-five million years ago, pieces of the land that would become present Antarctica and South America were also wrapped in their respective processes of transformational travel...Will ice and forest continue to sway together, or will the forces which drew them close eventually tear them apart?'

As a voice booms out this introduction, we hear the sounds tectonic geological movement that gives way to the sound of rainforest and animals, the howling of wind, and the cracking of ice.

In the following areas, we encounter films projected onto pools of water, audio storytelling, information boards, landscapes made from the recycled paper of books, and the physical sensations of tropical humidity and glacial ice.

Audiences leave via a participatory future section in which we develop, together, a vision for a future where we might live well, and what we need to do to make that possible.

An International, Interdisciplinary Team

- [Angela Posada-Swofford](#)
science writer, USA and Colombia
- [Elizabeth Lewis Williams](#)
poet, UK
- [Diana María Restrepo](#)
musician & sound artist, Colombia
- [Nina Bendzko](#)
filmmaker, Germany and Colombia
- [Story Machine](#)
producer, UK

