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Spring 2016

# Glacial warm

Dana Jean O'Malley  
*University of Iowa*

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GLACIAL WARM

by

Dana Jean O'Malley

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment  
of the requirements for the Master of Fine Arts  
degree in Art in the  
Graduate College of  
The University of Iowa

May 2016

Thesis Supervisor: Associate Professor Laurel Farrin

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Graduate College  
The University of Iowa  
Iowa City, Iowa

CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

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MASTER'S THESIS

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This is to certify that the Master's thesis of

Dana Jean O'Malley

has been approved by the Examining Committee for  
the thesis requirement for the Master of Fine Arts degree  
in Art at the May 2016 graduation.

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## PUBLIC ABSTRACT

*Glacial Warm* investigates romantic, human relationships and our collective commitment to the environment we inhabit. A couple travels and settles into polar and tropical landscapes, gathering, taking shelter, and finding sustenance together. They build their climate, adapting to continuous change. Through glaciers melting, volcanoes hissing, whales breaching, and nude bodies touching and holding, I develop a painted mythology.

Partnership is embodied through separate entities working together. Everyday tasks become intimate gestures. The tenderness of these gestures is rooted in their separation as individuals. Paint application is direct. What melts, drips. What freezes is preserved in cloudy impasto. A kiss is an oily smudge.

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## GLACIAL WARM

*Glacial Warm* investigates romantic, human relationships and our collective commitment to the environment we inhabit. A couple travels and settles into polar and tropical landscapes, gathering, taking shelter, and finding sustenance together. They build their climate, adapting to continuous change. Through glaciers melting, volcanoes hissing, whales breaching, and nude bodies touching and holding, I develop a painted mythology.

Partnership is embodied through separate entities working together. Everyday tasks become intimate gestures. The tenderness of these gestures is rooted in their separation as individuals. Paint application is direct. What melts, drips. What freezes is preserved in cloudy impasto. A kiss is an oily smudge.





Figure 1. Hold/Preserve. Oil on canvas, 36" x 40". 2016



Figure 2. Gather/Build. Oil on canvas, 54" x 48". 2016



Figure 3. Electric/Fashion. Oil on canvas, 72" x 50". 2016



Figure 4. Nyota/Garden. Oil on canvas, 72" x 50". 2016



Figure 5. Kiss/Volcano. Oil on canvas, 72" x 50". 2016



Figure 6. Give/Take. Oil on canvas, 14' x 4.5'. 2016





Figure 7. Cold Feet. Oil on canvas, 72" x 50". 2016



Figure 8. Installation View. *Glacial Warm*, Levitt Gallery, 2016





Figure 9. Installation View. *Glacial Warm*, Levitt Gallery, 2016