

November 25, 2015

Don Neubacher  
Superintendent  
Yosemite National Park  
P.O. Box 577  
Yosemite, California 95389

Dear Mr. Neubacher,

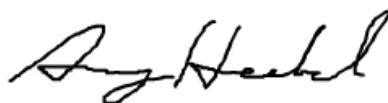
On behalf of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), I would like to enlist your support for an exciting artist project investigating how technology has reshaped our notion of landscape and the sublime.

Ted Boling, the Deputy Solicitor, Parks & Wildlife at the U.S. Department of the Interior, suggested that we contact you. Titled *Post-lenticular Landscapes*, the project is the vision of artists Matthew Shaw and William Trossell. Their design studio, ScanLAB Projects, received a grant from LACMA to conduct the work. The endeavor seeks to replicate the early photographic expeditions of Eadweard Muybridge and Ansel Adams into Yosemite National Park, equipped not with cameras, but with the latest terrestrial laser scanning equipment. The project proposal is attached.

I am writing to express the museum's support for this project and our hope that these artists may have the opportunity to work at Yosemite in the realization of their work. Following Shaw and Trossell's visit, the project's findings will be documented as part of the LACMA Art + Technology Lab program and shared with our public. Already, the Lab has garnered significant public attention and interest and we have no doubt that a collaboration such as this would be acclaimed as an engaging investigation into the relationship between art and nature.

Thank you in advance for your time and kind consideration. If the museum curators or I can offer any additional information about our commitment to this project, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Heibel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" and last name "Heibel" clearly distinguishable.

Amy Heibel  
Vice President  
Los Angeles County Museum of Art

# ScanLAB Projects

Unit 7  
5 Durham Yard  
Teesdale Street  
London  
E2 6QF

**RE: LACMA and ScanLAB Projects – Yosemite Project**

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Dear Mr. Neubacher

Our practice ScanLAB Projects have been fortunate enough to be selected for a prestigious 2015 Art + Technology Lab grant awarded by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA).

Our proposal for the project is to re-enact some of the iconic images of Vernal and Nevada Falls using an amazing new technology – 3D laser scanning. Our art practice specializes in this new medium which we see as the future of photography. Please see attached a few images of previous projects. The technology we use is in its infancy and, like the early Yosemite photographers, we are looking to put it to the test in some of the most incredible landscape imaginable with the hope of seeing these places in a new and interesting way.

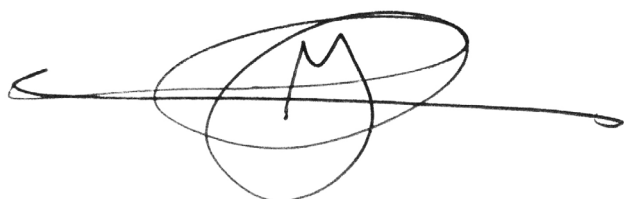
The project will have two phases. The first will be an expedition to Yosemite to capture data, currently scheduled for May 2016. The second will be an exhibition of completed works and discussion at LACMA, in Los Angeles, scheduled for Sept/Oct 2016. As part of the LACMA grant it is our ambition to allow an audience to see our work in progress and to be involved in open discussions as the project evolves. To that end, we would like to host a small, public event as part of our time in Yosemite.

Firstly we want to express our hope that the National Parks Service are able to support us in the making of this project as we think it could be an amazing work for such a special place. We are very willing to adapt and to amend our proposals on the advice of those who know the park well and who understand the conditions better than we are able to.

We are currently planning the expedition and there are a number of questions and logistics that we would very much appreciate your assistance with which we will outline in detail on the following page.

Many thanks for your consideration of our requests. We look forward to working with you to create an amazing new way of appreciating these incredible locations.

Kind regards

A stylized, abstract handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, loopy 'M' shape.A long, horizontal, and somewhat jagged handwritten signature in black ink.

Matthew Shaw + William Trossell  
**ScanLAB Projects**

**Our Process:** We would have a team of up to 8 members. We intend to establish a base camp in one of the campgrounds in Yosemite Village. From here each day we would make the trip on foot to Vernal and Nevada Falls. On location, we will conduct a capture process more similar to traditional surveying than to photography. To capture the falls and surrounding areas, we would place a 3D laser scanner in approximately 80 locations across the landscape. The instrument will sit on a surveying tripod. It measures 12 x 8 x 4 inches. We may establish up to 4 scanning locations at a time. The instrument uses an eye safe laser to map the form of anything within it's 1000 yard range.

**Access:** As the process outlined above suggests, we would need to move beyond the marked pathways at both Vernal and Nevada Fall locations, setting up our instruments at locations across each site. To give an indication we have attached an illustration to highlight the possible locations we may need to access below Vernal Falls. This process would take 2 - 3 days per location. We appreciate that for a variety of reasons a major effort is made to keep members of the public on the pathways at these major tourist locations and so would look to the rangers to help us plan an on location strategy that allows us the access we require while not encouraging the public into following us and exploring beyond safe and environmentally sensible limits. Our team has worked in some of the most environmentally and archaeologically sensitive sites in the world, from Arctic Ice Floes to Ancient Roman Catacombs, so we are used to working in delicate environments.

**Schedule:** Our planned schedule is as follows:

Arrive Yosemite	5th May
Establish Camp	5th / 6th May
Recce Days + Detail Planning with Rangers	7th / 8th May
Scanning Days	9th - 13th May
Scan Days + Begin Processing at Base Camp	14th - 15th May
Camp Fire Forest Cinema Event + Discussions	(after dark) 15th May
Depart Yosemite	16th May

**Camping:** It would be our intention to establish a base camp in North Pines campsite. Having visited the campsites our preference would be for the following sites in North Pines: 132, 134 and 136. It would be fantastic to reserve these from 5th May - 15th May inclusive. If we try to do this online we face not getting two adjoining sites and our dates just straddle the booking opening dates of Dec 15th (April 15th - May 14th) and Jan 15th (May 15th - June 14th.)

**Permits:** We understand the permit application process for commercial film and photographic processes. While our technology is neither we assume we should apply for a photographic permit and have read through the conditions and application forms. We have not yet made this application as we wanted to approach you first to discuss the project. It would be useful to understand if a creative, non-commercial rate is available for art projects such as ours.

**Event:** We would very much want to share our work with members of the public. Our intention would be to assemble a couple of stretched canvas surfaces between trees at our campground and project some of the project visuals onto these as the basis for an evening of discussion around the technology and the way Yosemite has played such a crucial role in the history of photography. We were wondering if this was possible within the campground, if our generators could be used out of normal generator hours to accommodate this and if there is a mechanism for publicising such events.

**Use of Drones:** In addition to our laser scanned capture from the ground the project would benefit from the use of drones to capture a wider area of data. We appreciate that all drone use is banned within the Yosemite Park for safety and environmental reasons but are wondering if you ever grant exceptions to that rule for specific purposes?

# LACMA: Art + Technology LAB

## ScanLAB Projects – WORKS

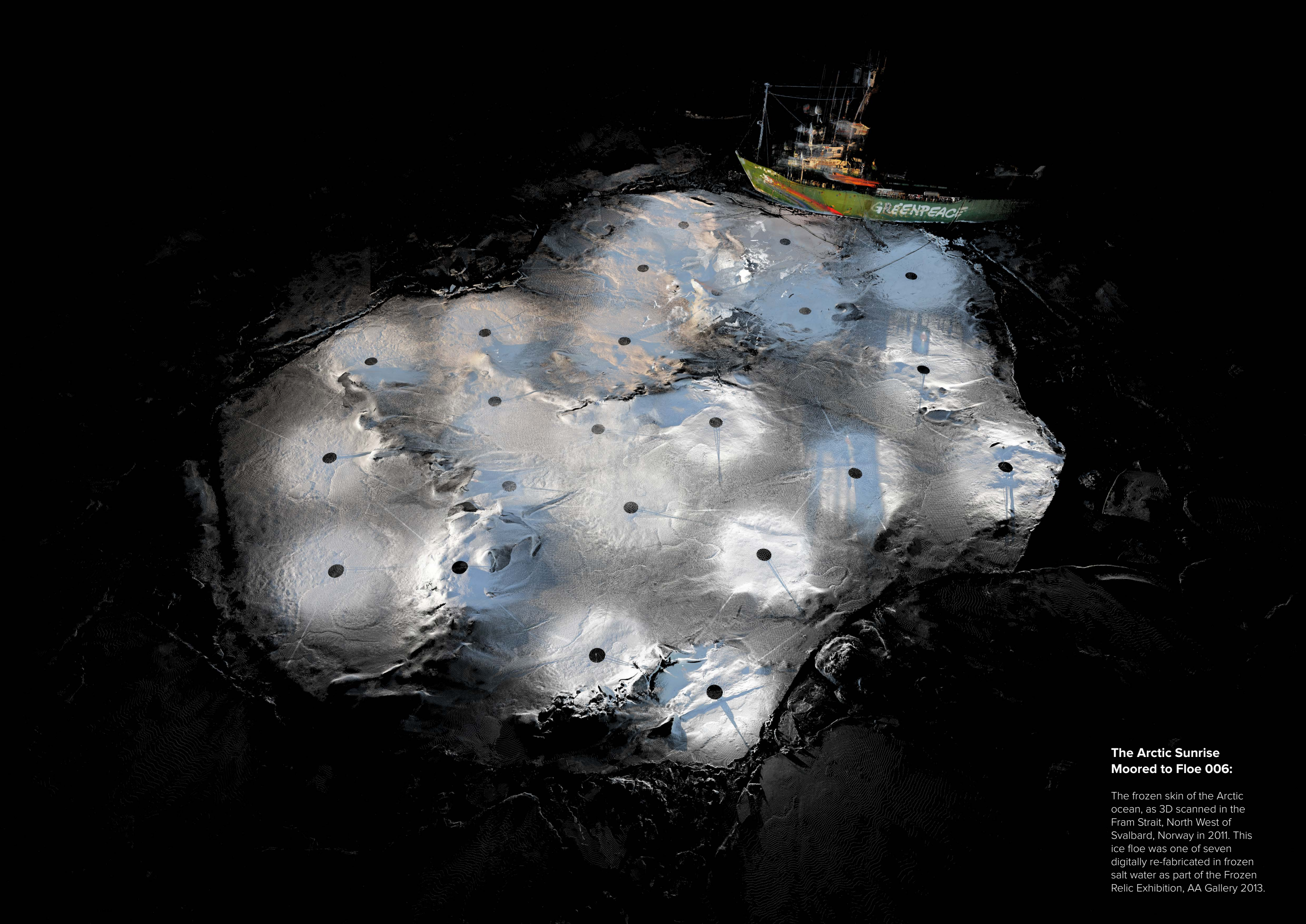
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**Kielder CAPTURE:**

Deep within the manufactured landscape of Kielder Forest a single laser scan captures the moss covered forest floor and delicate trees surrounding a small clearing.





**The Arctic Sunrise  
Moored to Floe 006:**

The frozen skin of the Arctic ocean, as 3D scanned in the Fram Strait, North West of Svalbard, Norway in 2011. This ice floe was one of seven digitally re-fabricated in frozen salt water as part of the Frozen Relic Exhibition, AA Gallery 2013.





**Terrestrial laser scan of a  
Stare Hole, Durdle Door,  
Dorset, UK:**

The folds and layers of crumpled  
rocks that give the Jurassic  
Coast it's unique geology  
scanned as part of our Clouds:  
GRID workshop at UCL.





**Terrestrial laser scan of a  
rock formation in Joshua  
Tree National Park:**

An outcrop of rock in Joshua  
Tree National Park, California  
scanned as part of the LA  
Skin Deep series of surface  
transplants across the state.



# VERNAL FALLS:

A diagram to show approximate extent and number of scan locations required at each fall.

NOTE: Additional locations would be out of shot in this image.

NOTE: This represents approx 2 days of time on location with up to 40 minutes spent at each scan position

● Scan location

