

SOPRAFINAGALLERY

SOJOURN: Photographs by Heddi Vaughan Siebel

Artist's Reception is Friday, February 1st, 5:30 to 7:30 PM

There is also a **2nd Saturday event** with the artist on February 9th, 3-5 PM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 28, 2019

Soprafina Gallery is pleased to exhibit "SOJOURN: Six Days in a Soviet Era Weather Station on the Franz Josef land Archipelago" photographs by Heddi Vaughan Siebel, from Jan. 19 through Feb. 23, 2019.

In July 2018, Siebel was invited by the Russian Arctic National Park to live for six days in the Soviet era weather station, on the Franz Josef Land archipelago. She was told that she might be the first American to live at Calm Bay since 1929 when it became a part of the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics).

Personal investigations had compelled her to explore these remote arctic islands. In 1903 Siebel's grandfather, Dr. John Colin Vaughan, a medical doctor and experienced dog sled driver, was marooned for two years on Franz Josef Land when, as a member of the American, Ziegler Polar Expedition, their ship was crushed by ice and disappeared. For more than two decades, Siebel has been researching the Ziegler Expedition of 1903-05 and has produced artworks that imagine the story of her grandfather Vaughan and the faraway places of his journey. To live on Franz Josef Land, however briefly, was Siebel's primary goal.

The photographs in this show document Siebel's interest, both historic and contemporary, in 'place' and the anthropogenic Arctic. Her immediate experience with the wind, light, and stubborn surfaces that had thwarted and amazed her grandfather John Colin Vaughan enriches her years of historical research. She has witnessed how humans interact with, and seek comfort in, one of the most defiant places on earth.

Heddi Vaughan Siebel is a multi-disciplinary artist from Cambridge, MA. She holds an M.F.A. from Yale University and a B.F.A. from Rhode Island School of Design and has taught Fine Arts at Wellesley College, the Massachusetts College of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, Boston University and Harvard University. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally and is in private and museum collections: MFA, Boston; the DeCordova Museum, Lincoln, Mass.; the Boston Public Library; and the Yale Art Gallery.

This exhibition will be at Soprafina Gallery through February 23rd. The gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm or by appointment. Please call for more information at 617.728.0770.