

**SCIENCE AND ART IN ANTARCTICA: SYNERGY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE**

K L Beaumont

*University of Tasmania, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia*

Environmental change threatens the growth, production and survival of organisms inhabiting Earth. Yet, to date, there has been little social and political will to effectively minimise and prepare for such change. Consequently, new strategies are required to promote effective action. Antarctica and the Southern Ocean play a pivotal role in the scientific detection, mediation and forecast of climate change while simultaneously providing a wealth of material for artistic exploration via traditional art-forms and modern technology. Since the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, the disciplines of science and art have diverged. However, as a scientist and practising artist, I show they are strikingly similar in their methods and motivation. Science pursues truth empirically and is held strictly accountable to facts. Yet, despite predicting major environmental change within our lifetimes, the impact of scientific outcomes on daily life remains largely unrecognised and unappreciated by the general populace. Art seeks truth in expression, has the freedom to view things from different perspectives, and the capacity to elicit an emotional response. These elements can promote a personal awareness of the effects of global change on our immediate future. Thus, this paper shows that collaborations between science and art have the ability to forge a new understanding of the social relevance of environmental change and thereby invoke public and political will that is necessary to prepare for and minimise such change.