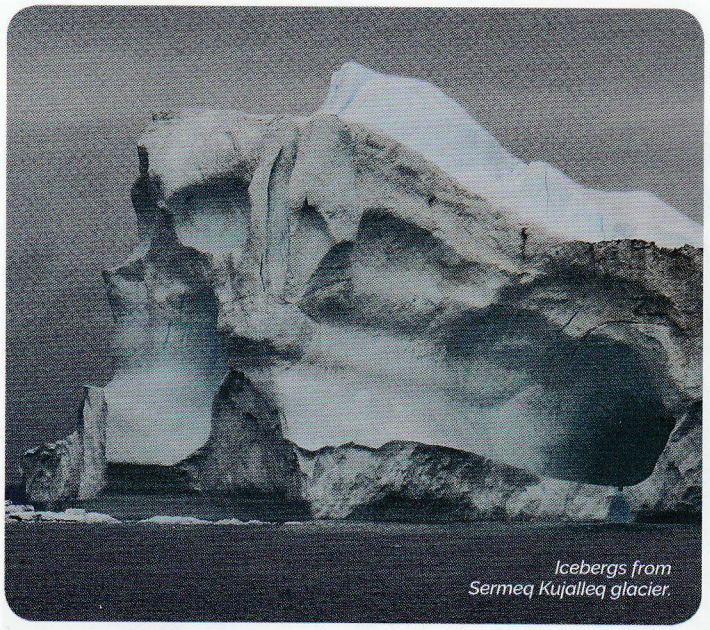


Icebergs from Sermeq Kujalleq glacier.



Kinghorn's waters have been projected worldwide.

At a fundamental level, marine life helps determine the very nature of our planet, with every second breath we take generated by the ocean. Kelp forests, sea grass meadows, salt marshes and other ocean environments: our so-called blue carbon habitats represent significant opportunities to offer nature-based solutions to mitigate and adapt to climate change, providing invaluable havens for marine life. Her visceral meditations on such eco-systems celebrate some of our greatest weapons to combat climate change by removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and proposes the vision of a dynamic collaboration for us all with the ocean our revered partner.

You may wonder at this point why some of you have not heard of Elizabeth Ogilvie, one of the most significant artists of our time, who dwells among us in Kinghorn. Her work is celebrated well beyond the shores of these Scottish Isles and will, I'm convinced, stand the test of time in a way in which other contemporary artist's work may not. As a student at Edinburgh College of Art (ECA) in the early 70s, I remember her vividly. Strikingly beautiful, stylish and hugely admired. She returned to ECA, University of Edinburgh as an academic soon after her graduation. Why did I not see then what she was to become?

In addition to her own work, she encourages and supports other artists. Among her many extra-curricular initiatives, Elizabeth Ogilvie is the founder and director of Scottish based cultural trust *Lateral Lab* (**laterallab.org**) that supports new art and pioneers cutting-edge responses to the environment through an eco-centric spirit of exploration, risk-taking and international collaboration. Work is guided by an interest in international currents in contemporary art and by a shared spirit that sees the social and transformative potential of creative collaboration and public engagement. Lateral Lab curates exhibitions internationally and supports young artists and architects internationally and delivers residencies in Kinghorn.

There is a theory about the creative process suggesting that we do our best work when we are in our prime. This theory is flawed. Elizabeth Ogilvie is in my opinion, doing her greatest, most profoundly influential work, now.

INTO THE OCEANIC is going to be shown at St Fillan's Church, Aberdour in September this year to celebrate the 900th anniversary of the church.

Her book OUT OF ICE by Black Dog Publishing, can be obtained from Elizabeth Ogilvie in Kinghorn (**outofice.org.uk/book/introduction**) and bookshops. ■

"The land (and its ocean) retains an identity of its own still deeper and more subtle than we can know. Our obligation toward it then becomes simple: to approach with an uncalculating mind with an attitude of regard. To try to sense the range and variety of its expression its weather and colours and animals. To intend from the beginning to preserve some of the mystery within it as a kind of wisdom to be experienced not questioned. And to be alert for its openings for that moment when something secret reveals itself within the mundane and you know the land (and its ocean) knows you are there."

Barry Lopez



Elizabeth at work at Sea Loft