



836. COMPLETING AGANTA KAIROS: CAPTURING METAPHYSICAL TIME ON THE SEVENTH CONTINENT



Andrea Dixon, Martin Wolf, Josh Veitch-Michaelis, John Hardin
90° S
December 21, 2020
IceCube Neutrino Observatory, South Pole, Antarctica



Stanislas Devorsine and Benoit Hébert
63°28' S / 139°48' E
February 7, 2014
Austral Ocean



Pauline Harris and Pere Tanui
43°50'07" S / 172°56'44" E
March 9, 2013
Sacred place of Onuku Marae, New Zealand



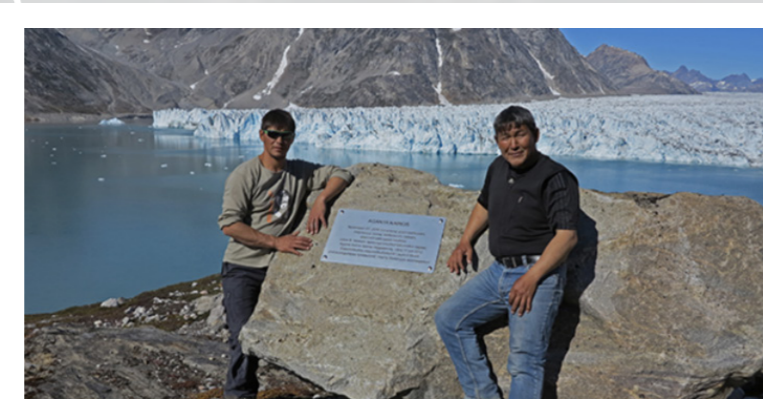
Francisco Heriniania and Mr. President
24°04'41" S / 43°41'57" E
April 12, 2012
Efoetsy, Madagascar



Zhan-Ayrs Dzhiikibaev, and Vitaly Schur
51°48'54" N / 104°50'07" E
March 25, 2018
Baikal Neutrino Telescope, Lake Baikal, Russia



Yves Le Ber and Thierry Stolarczyk
42°59'00" N / 06°12'24" E
June 19, 2013
Porquerolles Island, France

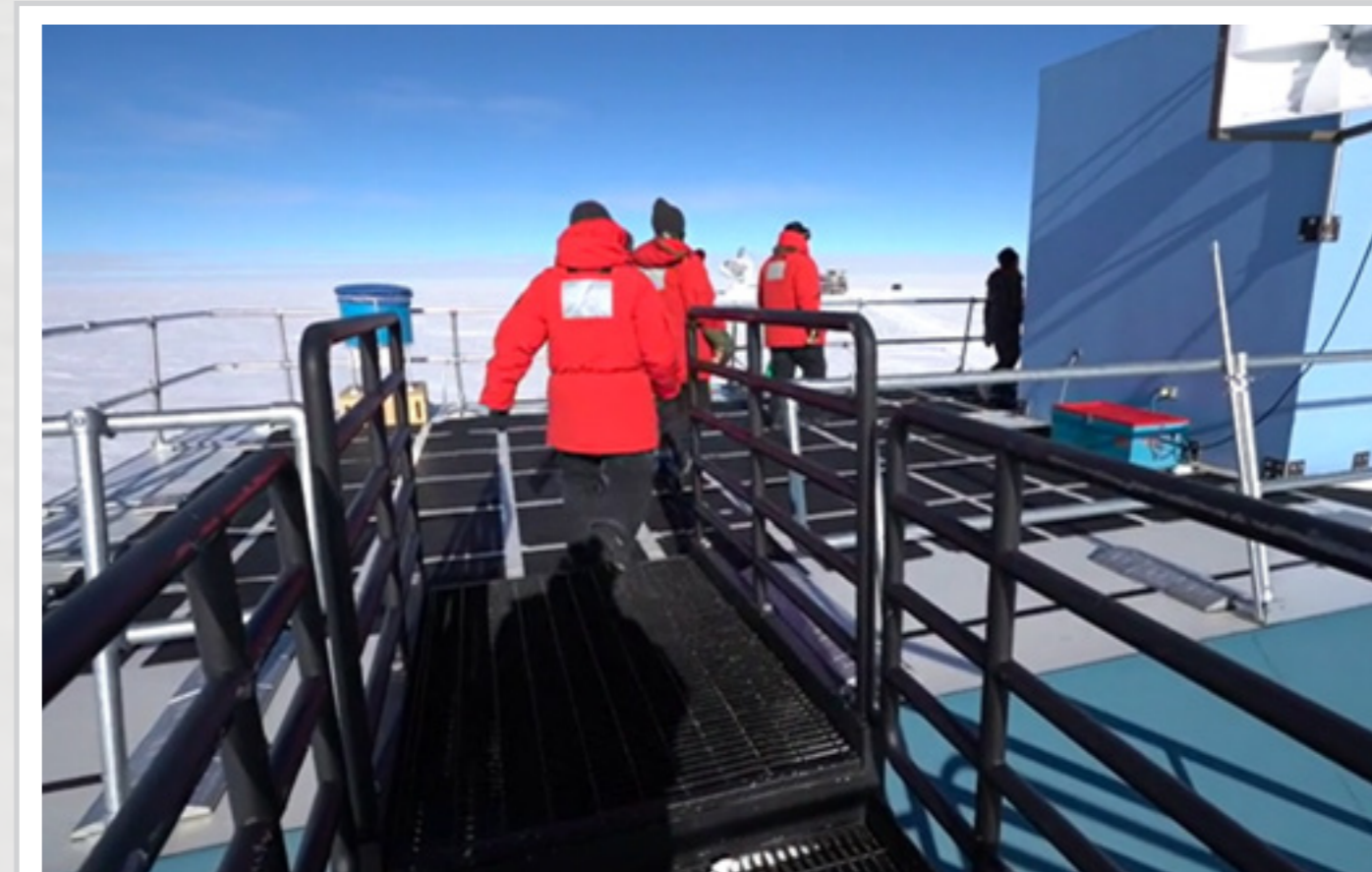
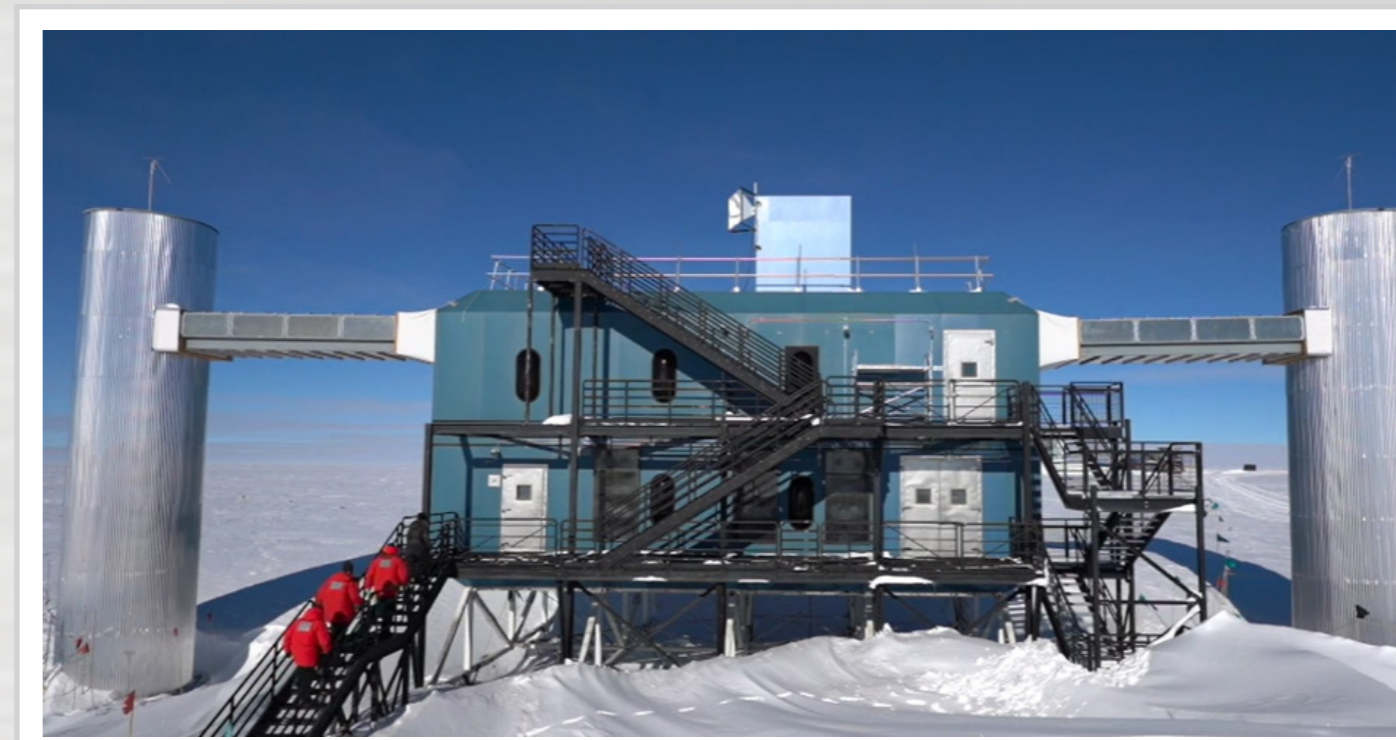


Julius Nielson and Gerd Ignatussen
66°23'23"24" N / 36°47'46" W
July 31, 2012
Sermiik Fjord, Greenland

Introduction

Aganta Kairos (To Fish the Metaphysical Time) celebrates the neutrino, the ghost particle, which is considered as a cosmic messenger by scientists and, for the artist, as a link between people who care about their relationship to the cosmos and question their origins. The artwork is based on a performance of celebration and seeks to build a human community crossing different knowledges and interpretations of the universe. This crossing of knowledges is realized during the performance of placing the plaque, held with witnesses, and during subsequent exhibitions.

Images, sounds, videos and sculpture testify to the diversity of approaches to questioning our origins ranging from traditional western science to ancient shamanism. The sites were selected to cover the globe and, for the South Pole, Mediterranean and Lake Baikal, their connection to ongoing neutrino experiments. In December 2020, a plaque was installed at South Pole IceCube Laboratory, the seventh and final site.



Installation

Follow the link below to see the video commemorating IceCube joining Aganta Kairos filmed on December 21, 2020, when the temperature was -26°C (-15°F). Video by Geoffrey Chen according to a script sent by the artist Laurent Mulot.
vimeo.com/552375740/b151da78de

Exhibitions

Aganta Kairos has already appeared in several exhibitions over the last eight years. It was seen at the International Biennale of Lyon in 2013/14 and will be presented during the next Biennale at Bleu du Ciel Gallery Lyon in its final version during the autumn of 2022. For that upcoming exhibition, a monumental video work showing seven synchronous videos of the seven sites of the Aganta Kairos inaugurations will be presented as well as a sculpture mixing water collected from the seven sites.

Catalog

A catalog entitled **Aganta Kairos from the six oceans to the seventh continent** will be published in 2022. It will include commentary from Mulot's scientific partners and contemporary art critic Paul Ardenne, and photographic selections from the complete work of Aganta Kairos.

Key Contributions

We thank Dr. Vladimir Papitashvili, Program Director, Astrophysics & Geospace Sciences, NSF, and Elaine Hood, Communications, Antarctic Support Contract, for their help to realize this project.
We thank Andrea Dixon (US Antarctic Program), John Hardin (WIPAC), Josh Veitch-Michaelis (WIPAC), Martin Wolf (WIPAC) and Geoffrey Chen (University of Chicago) for performing the inauguration ceremony and installing the plaque.

Aganta Kairos

Capturing metaphysical time on the seventh continent

In the depths of the Antarctic ice, just below the geographical South Pole, the IceCube telescope observes the traces of neutrinos emerging from the depths of our own Galaxy and from the extragalactic infinity. Already commemorated on the shores of the six oceans, the artwork Aganta Kairos now also welcomes the passage of these ghost particles at the South Pole.
On the twenty-first of December, 2020 Andrea Dixon, John Hardin, Josh Veitch-Michaelis and Martin Wolf became part of Aganta Kairos and celebrated the convergence of those who contemplate about the cosmos at the Indian Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Antarctic Ocean, Arctic Ocean, Atlantic Ocean with the Mediterranean Sea and Lake Baikal.

An artwork by the French artist Laurent Mulot
with the kind support of
Christian Spiering, Jim Madsen
and
the approval of the National Science Foundation.

Background

In 2012 and 2013, artist Mulot began celebrating on the coasts of the five oceans the passage of neutrinos, phantom particles considered as essential cosmic messengers by astrophysicists. Their passage leaves no trace, but a few are detected by partners to this work, the ANTARES and KM3NeT/ORCA underwater telescope plunged into the abyss of the Mediterranean Sea off the island of Porquerolles. On each site, Mulot realizes

a performance with local witnesses of the invisible, including a commemorative plaque. In 2018, the artist continued his work on the shores of Lake Baikal, the "6th ocean", with the scientists in charge of the Baikal Neutrino Telescope and then in 2020 with the IceCube Neutrino Observatory at the South Pole. The resulting work, Aganta Kairos, explores the cosmic questions about our origins, whether they come from the scientific tradition, mythology or the magical spirit of shamanism.

Path to the South Pole

While neutrinos reach the South Pole from all directions with ease, scientists have only one route via the US Antarctic Program run by the National Science Foundation (NSF). Even prior to COVID, only a few hundred people per year made it all the way to bottom of the Earth. Artist Mulot reached out to Christian Spiering in January 2020 seeking help completing Aganta Kairos by placing a plaque at the South Pole. Spiering worked with Jim Madsen who gained permission to participate in the art project from NSF. Coordinating

activities at the South Pole is challenging—many factors can derail even the best laid plans. Add the travel restrictions due to a world-wide pandemic, and the odds for success become vanishingly small. For example, a permanent bronze plaque could not be sent south because of severe cargo restrictions resulting from the pandemic. The temporary fabric version was in luggage delayed until one of the last flights of the season. The witnesses improvised with a printed paper plaque as you can see...

