

**PRESS RELEASE
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JULIE SAUL GALLERY

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SARAH ANNE JOHNSON

The Arctic Circle

February 24- April 9, 2011

Reception for the artist, Thursday, February 24, 6 to 8 pm



Dripping Fireworks, 2010, chromogenic print, photospotting ink, acrylic ink, gouache and india ink, 42 x 28"

In Oct 2009, Sarah Anne Johnson participated in an artist's residency on a two masted schooner in the Arctic Circle in Norway: The artists spent twelve days on a ship with daily adventures on shore. She described the experience as "amazing; it was exotic, breathtakingly beautiful and sublime. It seemed so pristine and perfect, vast and strong, but also somehow delicate and fleeting. After such an experience, one can't help philosophizing about the impact we have on this planet.

We are in the process of creating irreparable damage to the earth and will soon have no choice but to gamble on increasingly speculative theories. A favorite theory of engineers as a last resort to stop global warming is the blocking out of the sun! With this body of work I have been assessing and questioning western ideas of progress, growth and innovation. What are we progressing toward? Where does innovation lead us? How big can we go? What will it mean for us to take over the sun? Not only for the environment but psychologically for us, what will that mean?

To explore these concerns I have painted, photo shopped, embossed and used printmaking on the photographs I took during the expedition. I do this to create a more honest image. To show not just what I saw, but how I feel about what I saw."

This will be Sarah Anne Johnson's fourth solo exhibition with the gallery, the first being "Tree Planting" in 2005 which was recently exhibited at the Guggenheim in Haunted. Each of her exhibitions have been conceived as installations and have been acquired in their entirety by a public museum. This is the first show which consists of free standing independent works.

For further information or press images contact Edna Cardinale at edna@saullgallery.com