

G E O R G E P O L K E

Snæbjörnsdóttir/Wilson  
screening and books  
Saturday 12th December 4-6pm

In celebration of the continuing tour of Snæbjörnsdóttir/Wilson's *nanoq: flat out and bluesome*, George Polke invites you for a glass of mulled wine and the screening of *nanoq: the journey* on Saturday 12th December 4-6pm.

*nanoq:* is the story of polar bears, the largest land predators on earth, and their displacement from the arctic wilderness to the museums and stately homes of the UK. *nanoq: the journey* documents one part of this project – the transport and installation of 10 stuffed polar bears from around the country into the exhibition space at Spike Island, Bristol.

Between 2002 and 2004 Bryndis Snæbjörnsdóttir and Mark Wilson undertook a survey to find every taxidermic polar bear in the UK. In all, thirty-three specimens were traced and photographed in situ. This archive of photographic works also documents the histories of each bear – its place of capture or shooting, the name of the person responsible, the nature or purpose of the expedition, the bear's history in captivity, and its age at death.

Having been exhibited widely in Scandinavia and significantly, at a number of polar museums, the archive is currently touring the UK, at the Worcester Museum & Art Gallery until 9th January and opening at the Manchester Museum on 13th February 2010.

The screening will take place alongside Luminous Books, the artist-curated bookshop hosted by George Polke every Saturday 12-6pm. On the day Luminous Books will be selling signed copies of *nanoq: flat out and bluesome: A Cultural Life of Polar Bears* (published by Black Dog, London). This lavishly illustrated document of the project includes a short story by Patricia Ellis and essays by leading academics, Michelle Henning, Garry Marvin and Steve Baker, who discuss taxidermy and photography, trophy hunting and the increasingly frequent use of animals in contemporary art.

Snæbjörnsdóttir/Wilson posit questions on 'domesticity' and 'wilderness', exploring contemporary relationships between human and non-human animals in the contexts of history, culture and the environment. *Radio Animal*, their most recent endeavour has involved them travelling the country in a specially designed mobile radio unit, to gather material from people about their relationship to animals and contested space; from pigeon fanciers to pigeon feeders and pest control departments. Bringing together the opinions and perspectives of wild life enthusiasts, hunters, vegetarians, trappers, fishers, pet owners, farmers and rat catchers, the audio, video and photographic research material gathered on this journey will form part of *Uncertainty in the City*, their forthcoming exhibition at Storey Gallery, Lancaster which will open in September 2010.

For more information about Snæbjörnsdóttir/Wilson, the photographic edition of the archive, or Luminous Books please contact Louise O'Hare. Phone 07813306451 or email [info@georgepolke.co.uk](mailto:info@georgepolke.co.uk)

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All events are open to the  
public and free of charge  
Open Saturdays 12-6pm  
or by appointment

For further information  
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