



'Assemblage of the Microscopic'

Selected as part of the '*Crystalline*' exhibition

At the Millennium Court Arts Centre

December 2012-January 2013

Artist Statement

'Assemblage of the Microscopic'

The concept behind this work is both metaphorical and dialectic, immersing the viewer into a sub-glacial reality. The narrative employed interrogates the cold dark waters of Lake Ellsworth in Antarctica contextualizing natural patterns and polyhedral organisms. The work appropriates scientific imagery, in particular the crystalline structure of Diatoms, Petri Dishes and ice cores.

Diatoms, photosynthesising algae, have a siliceous skeleton and are found in every aquatic environment. Whether living diatoms will be found in the sub-glacial depths of Lake Ellsworth is unlikely since they require light to survive. Yet Diatom microfossils may be found in the lakes sediments. If this is the case they can be used to better understand climate and environmental conditions of earths past. Diatoms have been found in sediments from the Jurassic period onward.

The artwork endeavoured to fundamentally explore the Antarctic landscape addressing esoteric allusions and references within the confinement of the gallery space.

Kathryn Nelson