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Climate Change in the Visual Culture of the Arctic Region

The rivalry for the Arctic's formerly inaccessible resources has intensified, and recalls earlier 19th and 20th century struggles for power. At a moment when we thought the excesses of colonialism belonged to the past, current events remind us that the resurgence of interest in these regions is not only about concern for dying polar bears, arresting global warming, and protecting the Arctic landscape and indigenous peoples, but also involves territorial expansion and competition over natural resources. Nations are competing over the development of natural resources such as oil and gas and access to shipping routes that were once off-limits. We will examine how artists such as Subhankar Banerjee are addressing the ways that neo-liberal capital and environmentalism are revisioning the Arctic as a key site of global environmental politics through art practices that focus on various counter productions of new images and alternative stories about the effects of industrialization on the arctic.