

From: Emergence Magazine hello@emergencemagazine.org
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Emergence Magazine



FILM

Puffling

by Jessica Bishopp

“We are helping the pufflings ‘go home.’”

Every summer in Vestmannaeyjar, a remote archipelago off the south coast of Iceland, fledgling Atlantic puffins begin to leave their nests for the first time, taking flight from high sea cliffs. Instinct tells them to follow the moonlight out to sea, but as the urban area has developed, the pufflings increasingly lose their way, mistaking city lights for the moon rising over the ocean. Most don't survive this ordeal, further endangering a population already suffering from instability and food scarcity as oceans warm and breeding timelines shift. In efforts to support the puffin colony, a tradition has emerged among the local community: spending August and September nights searching for pufflings stranded in town, and releasing them from ocean cliffs the following day.

Inspired by the ways young people are folding acts of care for the Earth into their daily lives, London-based filmmaker Jessica Bishopp followed two Icelandic teenagers who have been rescuing pufflings every summer for much of their lives. In this coming-of-age film, produced in collaboration with If/Then Shorts as part of our *Shifting Landscapes* documentary program and distributed in partnership with The New Yorker Documentary, we join Birta and Selma as they drive through town for a night, searching for lost pufflings and gently helping them find their way home. Illuminating the uncertainty both the young women and the puffins face as they begin to set out into the world, this film, which premiered at SXSW Film Festival and won the Jury Award for Documentary at Aspen Shortsfest, explores the delicate interplay between wild and human lives in a changing and warming world.

WATCH FILM



Photo by Elizabeth Rush

PODCAST

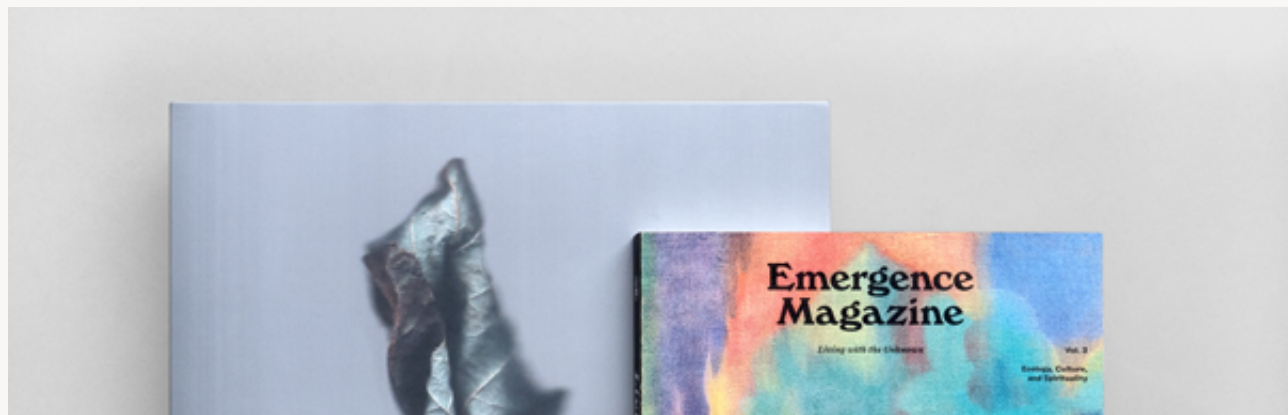
Glacial Longings

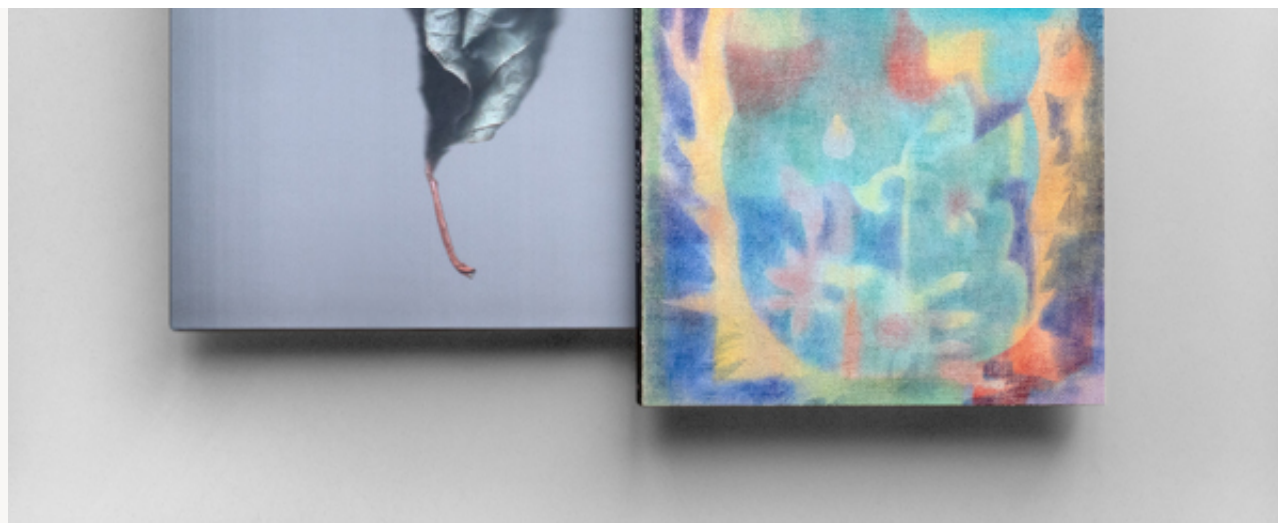
by Elizabeth Rush

Taking us to the collapsing face of Thwaites Glacier in Antarctica, author Elizabeth Rush works to free the ice's agency from both historical tropes and the confines of her own preconceptions. Contemplating the ways our own future is increasingly entangled with that of Thwaites, Elizabeth listens for the voice of the glacier, anticipating a quick, ready kinship. But as she recognizes the importance of time—"ribbons, reams" of time—in attuning oneself to the Earth's responses, she surrenders to the slow unfolding conversation between humans and the more-than-human world.

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