



Xavier Cortada, "North Pole Dinner Party plates," Arctic melted ice, underglaze, glaze on ceramic, 2008. (North Pole Dinner Party Installation at 90N in 2018.)

NORTH POLE DINNER PARTY

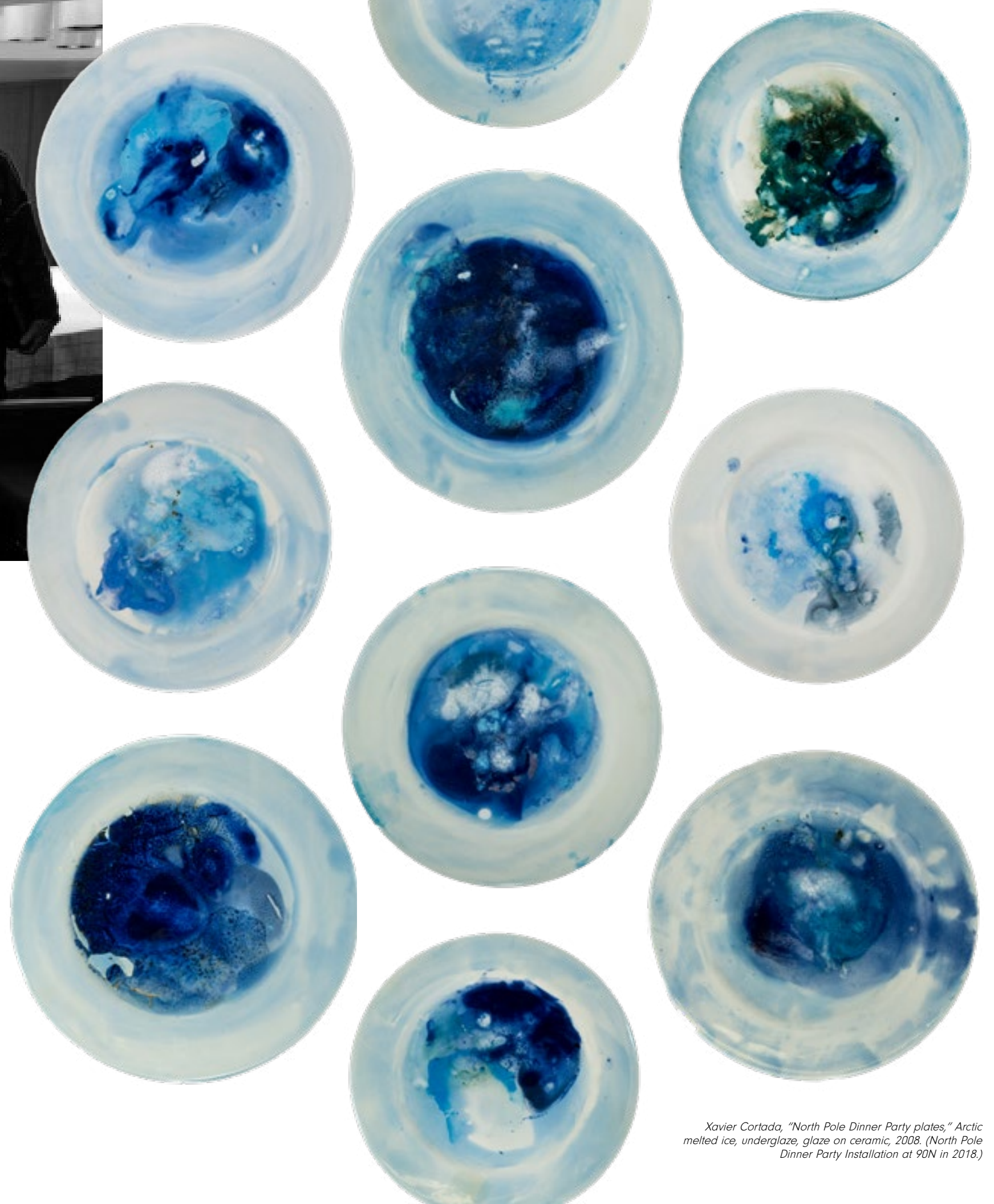
BY XAVIER CORTADA



ABOUT NORTH POLE DINNER PARTY

On June 29th, 2008, I arrived at the North Pole to create ritualistic installations addressing global climate change and the melting polar caps. One of my performances included a ritual where I fed my fellow icebreaker travelers pieces of ice collected at the North Pole, thereby integrating the North Pole into their very being.

I figured that if they ingested a piece of the North Pole, it would become part of them. The North Pole water molecules would be swirling through their bodies. The North Pole atoms would be incorporated into their very cells. My sense was that after having North Pole communion, they would protect the North Pole. If nothing else, they would do so for self-preservation.



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THE GREEN PROJECT (2008)



BAKEHOUSE (2015)



PINELLAS 90N (2018)



Ten years ago, Cortada's ice breaker easily pushed through the then-thinning polar ice, surprising the crew at its early arrival in the North Pole. Arctic warming has since continued melting sea ice at frightening speed: "Within two decades" stated the artist, "I will be able to repeat the journey on a sailboat, because scientists tell us the Arctic Ocean will be ice-free during summer. Global Climate Change will not just melt the Arctic, it will irrevocably change the world below."

"I bring this exhibition to the people of Florida to draw the alarming connection between the Arctic and our peninsula," said Cortada. "Melting ice will have catastrophic effects across our state and weaken the Gulf Stream. Arctic warming will lead to sea level rise, more coastal flooding, prolonged heatwaves, relentless rain, stalled tropical storms, extreme weather and more intense fire seasons."

UNTITLED, ART FAIR (2019)





Xavier Cortada is an artist and Professor of Practice at the University of Miami Department of Art and Art History. Cortada's work is intended to generate awareness and action towards issues of global climate change. Using the power and elasticity of participatory art to engage, Cortada educates and inspires community members to work together and learn together to solve our community's problems.

Cortada has created art installations at the North and South Poles to help address environmental issues at every point in between. His work is also in the collections of Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), the Patricia and Philip Frost Art Museum, the MDC Museum of Art + Design, the NSU Museum of Art in Ft. Lauderdale, the Whatcom Museum in Washington, and the World Bank and is the Artist-in-Residence at Pinecrest Gardens.

To learn more, visit www.cortada.com.



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