

# MMAM MINNESOTA MARINE ART MUSEUM

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PRESS RELEASE (for immediate release)

## **New Exhibition by Mustafah Abdulaziz Looks at International Issues of Water Access**

**WINONA, MN (March 19, 2024) - Minnesota Marine Art Museum**

Mustafah Abdulaziz's new exhibition, *Water*, recently opened at the Minnesota Marine Art Museum (MMAM) in Winona, MN. In 2024, MMAM is presenting a year-long suite of exhibitions and programs under the theme of Freshwater, that explores bold and often under-told narratives, examines fresh new perspectives of water, and features game-changing artists who help us better our relationship to this precious resource. *Mustafah Abdulaziz: Water* is on view at MMAM now through June 23, 2024.

*Water*, a two-gallery solo exhibition from photographer Mustafah Abdulaziz, looks at a decade of Abdulaziz's work dedicated to the compelling narrative of climate change's profound impact on humanity. Through his large-scale, expansive installations, he has documented international issues of water access. His ongoing *Water* series has explored regions as diverse as Somalia's arid landscape, Brazilian river basins, Pakistani city centers, China's Yangtze River, and the brushlands of California, bringing these pivotal narratives to the forefront. The series delves beneath the surface of the world's most vital resource, water, and humanity's connection with this vital element, offering a truly remarkable perspective.

The exhibition, featuring 58 of Abdulaziz's photographs, is organized into three sections: *Water*, *Water II* and *The Arctic*. Beginning in 2011, Abdulaziz set out to photograph the complex human interaction with our environment and water in his ongoing *Water* series. In *Water II*, Abdulaziz turned his lens on the somber aspects of humankind's use and abuse of water. *The Arctic* shatters viewers' misconceptions that the region is a wholly wild place by focusing on the effects of mining, pollutants, and rising temperatures. "Mustafah Abdulaziz's work captures the profound interplay between humanity and the environment, evoking an affecting narrative of our impact on the planet," says Dave Casey, Director of Engagement at MMAM. "Viewers leave with the stark understanding that climate change is not something to

deal with in the future, but something that is having devastating consequences for people and the planet today.”

This exhibition is presented by the Minnesota Marine Art Museum, with support in part from the Board of Directors, the Elizabeth Calendar King Foundation, Gundersen Medical Foundation, Winona Foundation, the Winona Community Foundation, and other generous sustaining contributions from foundations, corporations, individuals, members and volunteers. Special thanks to the Freshwater sponsors and partners, Minnesota Public Radio, Wisconsin Public Radio, Lake and Company, La Crosse Distilling Company, Visit Winona, Frozen River Film Festival, and Ramshackle Press. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts & cultural heritage fund.

The Minnesota Marine Art Museum is a nonprofit art museum that engages visitors in meaningful art experiences that explore our ongoing relationship with water. Located in Winona, Minnesota, the purpose-built museum is located on the banks of the Mississippi River and boasts six galleries, an educational and events space, and a destination retail shop on its seven acre riverside campus. It is through this surprising diversity that MMAM is not only describing what marine art is, but pushing the boundaries of what marine art can be.

#### MUSTAFAH ABDULAZIZ



New York-born and Berlin-based photographer Mustafah Abdulaziz (b. 1986) has devoted over a decade of his life to capturing the compelling narrative of climate change's profound impact on humanity. Abdulaziz has meticulously documented global water issues through his ongoing *Water* series. This ambitious project explores diverse regions, from the arid landscapes of Somalia to Brazilian river basins, Pakistani city centers, China's Yangtze River, and California's brushlands. Through large-scale installations, Abdulaziz brings these critical narratives to the forefront, delving beneath the surface of the world's most vital resource—water—offering a remarkable perspective on humanity's connection with this indispensable element. His notable achievements include the prestigious Leica Oskar Barnack Award, support from National Geographic, and fellowships from the Alicia Patterson and Bertha Foundations. Abdulaziz's photographs grace renowned publications like *The New York Times*, *TIME*, and *Der Spiegel*, while his work finds representation in exhibitions worldwide, spanning galleries, museums, and public spaces.

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