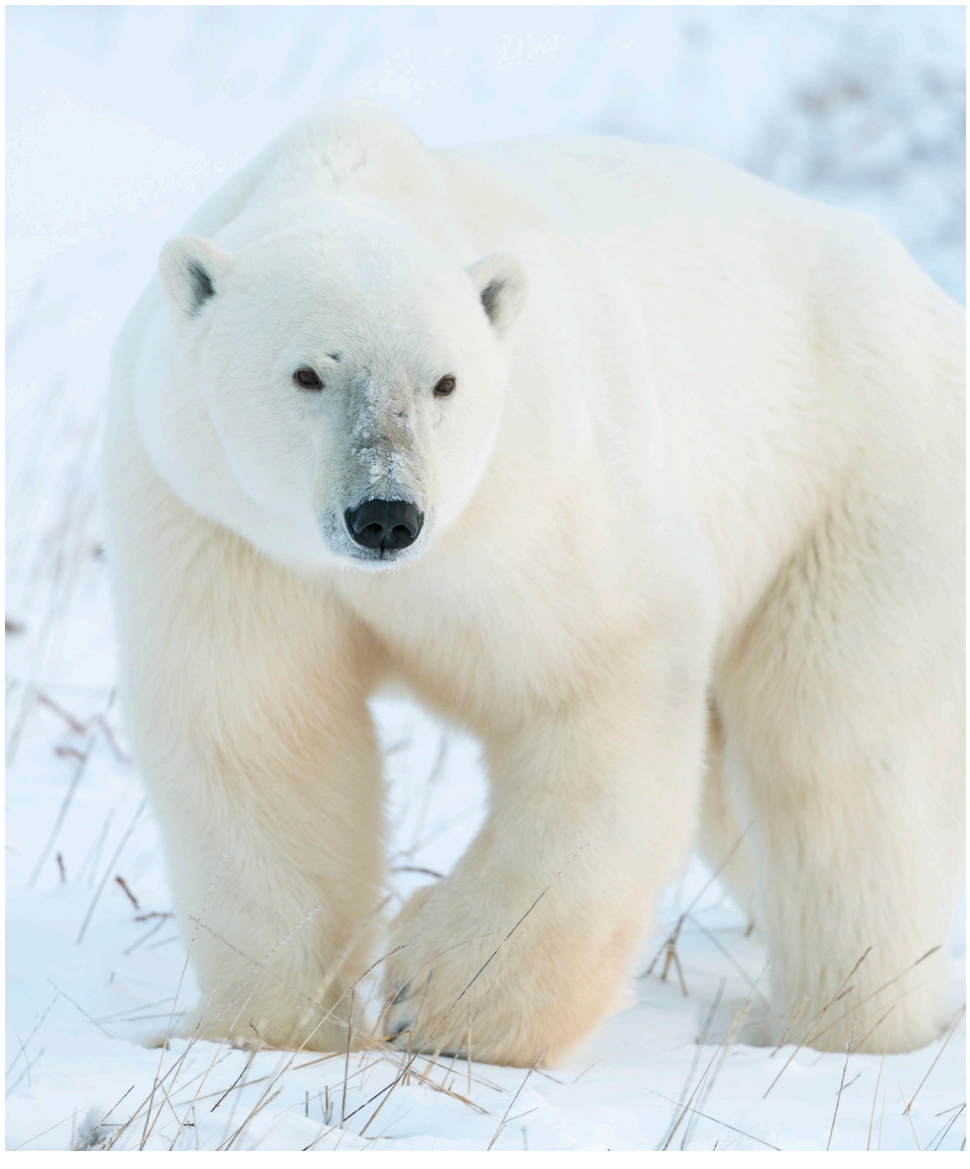


ICE BEAR

Photographs by Ralph Clevenger



ICE BEAR is now available for inter-museum loan through the **Santa Barbara Maritime Museum!**



ICE BEARS by Ralph A. Clevenger

features 30 photographs capturing the frozen tundra surrounding Churchill in Manitoba, Canada. The image depicts a time in early November, when snow is starting to fall across the Hudson Bay, and temperatures are dropping steadily. By January, temperatures average around -20°F , too cold for many species to survive, but the right temperature for polar bears to thrive. Once the ice on the bay is solid, the bears venture out to hunt for seals. What they catch on the ice in spring must sustain them during the summer and fall months, when the ice melts and food is scarce.



The exhibit depicts the turning point as hungry bears migrate toward the coast, after a summer of resting to conserve energy. In this liminal space, Clevenger captures moments of hunger and hope; as bears

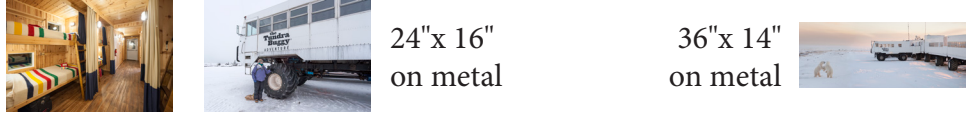
safely venture back onto the tundra for their first real meal in months. An additional six photographs feature other bears of the West Coast, which are facing similar challenges of territory loss.

“Polar bears are in danger of going extinct in much of their range due to a warming Arctic, said Clevenger. "as the first vertebrate species listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, as they remain threatened due to predicted climate change. This was a big reason I wanted to see wild polar bears in their natural habitat.”

Thirty photos on a combination of vibrant metal prints and life-size banners.

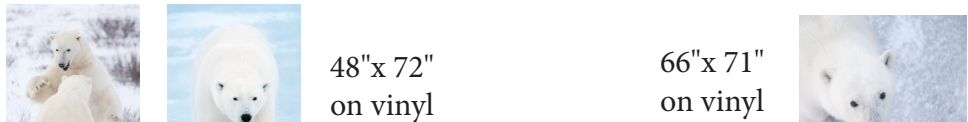


36"x 24"
on metal



24"x 16"
on metal

36"x 14"
on metal



48"x 72"
on vinyl
banner

66"x 71"
on vinyl
banner



24"x 36"
on metal

For more details and availability please visit sbmm.org/traveling-exhibits. To book this exhibit, contact Emily Falke by email at efalke@sbmm.org.

About Ralph Clevenger

Ralph Clevenger grew up on the coast of North Africa and began diving in the waters of the Mediterranean Sea at the age of seven with his father. He eventually went on to study zoology and worked as a diver/biologist for the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego before attending Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara. He holds a BS degree in zoology and a BA degree in photography.

Based in Santa Barbara, California, Clevenger pursues his passion for the natural world by specializing in location photography and video projects of eco-travel, wildlife, and undersea subjects. He is the author of the book *Photographing Nature*, published by Peachpit Press New Riders. He was a senior faculty member at Brooks Institute for more than 33 years, teaching courses in natural history photography; on-location lighting; video production; and undersea photography; among others.

Clevenger has traveled throughout the world on assignments including Australia; Chile; Ireland; the Caribbean; New Zealand; Mexico; Costa Rica; Antarctica; and several countries in Africa. His publication credits include *Audubon*; *Afar*; *Islands*; *National Geographic*; *Nature's Best*; *Oceans*; *National Geographic Traveler*; *Outside*; *c't Digital Photography*; *Orion Nature Quarterly*; *National Geographic Books*; *Smithsonian Books*; *Sierra Club Books*; and many other national and international publications.

Clevenger's stock images are represented worldwide by Tandem Stills & Motion and Getty Images.