

**Brief Interview with the Coordinator of the Project “Art and Landscape Form – Permafrost in Transformation” at the Wilhelmsburg School, Art Teacher Gundi Wiemer (interviewed by Angela Dietz)**

*How did you turn scientific findings into art?*

**Gundi Wiemer:** Well, I started by doing quite a bit of reading. As an artist, I’m always interested in what’s going on ‘behind the scenes’. You could look at landscape photography and study the trademark structures, but the ‘handwork’ aspects – the form, colour, surface texture, etc. – aren’t enough for me.

*What do the concrete working steps look like?*

**Gundi Wiemer:** The students and I discussed climate change and made a list of pluses and minuses in our own environmental behaviour, without making anyone out to be the ‘bad guy’. And of course we also looked at plenty of images.

*What does it look like when the students do practical artwork?*

**Gundi Wiemer:** They focus on visually portraying what happens when ice melts, which can produce slush, for example. So they recognise that other colours result, that the blue and white tones are supplemented by brown ones.

*Permafrost is a complex topic. How do you suitably ‘break it down’ for children and adolescents?*

**Gundi Wiemer:** We start with the reality, switch to a fictionalisation and then return to the reality. I like to tell them short stories to give them certain impulses. ‘In the beginning, there were the water drops.’ It’s amazing to see what a sense of humour the students have, and how creative they are when it comes to making up stories. The process takes quite a while, but that’s not a problem.



*Art Teacher Gundi Wiemer  
(Photo: Angela Dietz)*



*Art object at the ICOP 2016  
(Photo: Marietta Weigelt)*