

NOTES FROM THE NORTH [ALASKA]
PP 183 – 185
UNSETTLED EXHIBITION CATALOG

Most of us exist in a humanly arranged, themed, controlled world
ENVIRONMENTS have own rhythms/orders of existence

ALASKA: 4 million people/part of International Arctic

Strategic West of U.S. due to oil/Arctic

Alaska Natives understand their landscape

Outsiders consider Alaska “wild”

Symbolizes wild that remains

GREATER WEST: Embodies spirit

Expands boundaries

Stretches by ocean/not land

Animals need fresh water

Most of west battles drought

Sea ice disappearing

Erodes coastlines

Glaciers receding

Threatens marine species

Bellweather of climate change

New language for place/landscape

Thought and terrain connected

Connection: water/culture/nature/indigenous knowledge

Human imprint vast influence on environment

MOTTO: LAST FRONTIER

Testing ground for mettle/mind

Outsiders consider land/animals/people untamed

Climate diverse/heavy presence of environment throughout

Geographically NORTH

Aleutians:

14 large volcanic islands/55 smaller ones

Belong both to U.S./Russia

Northern part of Pacific Ring of Fire

Divide

Bering Sea – north

Pacific Ocean – south

Commander Islands

Extreme western end of chain

Belong to Russia

Indigenous Peoples traveled freely BEFORE borders

LANDSCAPE:

Natural/neutral

Environment can be politicized