

Helen Lindhurst Fine Arts Gallery



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CRUDE

invites you to examine our energy
infrastructure through the landscapes that
comprise Alaskan resource development.

The work captures these places as they are today.



As conversations about climate and updating our energy systems reach national platforms, I found it important to present the landscapes as they operate. The work addresses the relationship between infrastructure and the resource, with hopes of showing how these systems co-exist. I also chose to present Alaskan climate science and military defense as these industries are directly fueled by our access to energy.





These paintings are my attempt to represent our dependency on resource development to power modern society. Creating a carbon neutral energy system will not happen without the power that comes from these resources; using the infrastucture that we have today to build the systems of tomorrow. To find a way to move forward, we must be cognizant of our dependency on the systems as they are today. I have incredible respect and awe for these places as they have allowed humans to develop the world. As we work to secure a future of sustainable energy independence, we should look to pay homage to the engineering that has made all of modern society possible. These places allow us to live in the world as we know it, poweing industry, creating better standards of living, and allowing for us to travel at unprecedented speeds.

Walter Hickel was Secretary of the Interior from 1969 to 1970, until he had a falling out with President Richard Nixon over the Vietnam War. He was the first Secretary of the Interior to be fired.

Walter J. Hickel believes very deeply in the obligations that one human being holds to all of his or her fellow human beings, and one result of that belief in the sense of a larger community that ties one person to another. One result of that belief has been his frequent episodes of public service

In a very ironic prelude to becoming Secretary of Interior himself, he lived for a while in a territory in which almost all power lay in the hands of the Department of Interior, and in the hands of the special interests that had courted Interior's good will. After the successful fight for statehood, Walter J. Hickel became Alaska's second governor

Walter Hickel was an active figure in Richard Nixon's presidential campaign in 1968, especially in the Western states. After the election in 1968, with two more years to go in his term as governor, he received a phone call from the newly elected Nixon asking him to serve as Secretary of Interior.

Getting this flattering phone call must have been the highest part of this story, the best part for a spell. An early press conference in Washington generated ripples of controversy. Secretary Hickel declared there: "He did not believe in conservation for conservation's sake," and to some critics, that was that. The idea that he might have other reasons to believe in did not occur to those opponents.

In May of 1970, after the Kent State deaths, Secretary Hickel wrote a forceful letter to President Nixon, asking him to deal respectfully with his critics.

Nixon did not like receiving that letter. And his disapproval of Hickel's position began to ricochet around in gossip and indirect commentary, leading to a final meeting on Thanksgiving Eve – a particularly nice Nixonian touch, I think, to pick Thanksgiving Eve for that – in which the president called in Secretary Hickel and fired him.

As Hickel said sometime after his dismissal from the Nixon administration, "Just because I crawled out of a snake pit doesn't mean I'm a snake."

All quotes included are from a 2003 Center for the American West interview with Secretary of the Interior and former Governor of Alaska, Wally Hickel. He was an environmentalist who understood the vital necessity of independent energy production and worked to create a fair balance between resource development, equal access to resource revenue, and protection of the environment. I choose to include his perspectives because I felt that he was unafraid to speak about our need to develop energy and our responsibility to protect the environment.

This interview was part of a series of public conversations with former Interior secretaries conducted by Charles Wilkinson and Patty Limerick, cofounders of the Center of the American West at the University of Colorado at Boulder. The series was cosponsored by the Nature Conservancy and Headwaters News. Boulder, Colorado; October 15, 2003



Precious
36 x 48 in
Oil on Canvas
2019

OK... Native land claims had been gone for 100 years or more. I remember the president called from the White House about March of '69 and he had the attorney general's office there, the law offices, and the Treasury Department, Commerce and all that.

And they said, "Mr. President, the natives don't have any legal claim. We bought that land." Commerce said, "They don't have an economic claim. We paid Russia for it. He said, "So there's no reason to make this settlement, it's been going on for 100 years."

The President said, "Let's hear from Wally."

I said, "Mr. President, I agree with Justice and the Attorney's office. They don't have a legal claim. And I agree with Treasury and Commerce, they don't have an economic claim." I said, "Mr. President, this is not a legal or an economic issue, it's a moral issue."

And he came out from behind his desk and he said, "I'm going with Wally." And that was the native land claims settlement, just like that. So you don't go in to a president, a pope or a prostitute or whomever you're talking to — say exactly what you think.

If I had said, "Mr. President, no I don't think; yeah, they probably don't; yes, maybe; You're not going to get it. You talk to them just like two and two is four. And I've learned that from over 50 years of going to Washington.

As one of the largest zinc deposits and precious metals repositories in the world, Red Dog Mine provides important minerals that help run your cellphones, electrical equipment, pharmaceuticals, paints, rubbers, and many other modern devices. This mine is located 116 miles above the Arctic Circle and 90 miles from the nearest community, Kotzebue, Alaska. Located on land that is managed by NANA, a Regional Alaska Native Corporations owned by the Iñupiat people of Northwest Alaska. The revenue from the mine provides integral annual dividends which makes a significant contribution to the cost of living above 60 degrees north. Before mining operations began, mineral deposits that were toxic to the local biodiversity were prevalent in streams and watersheds, however the implementation of the mine removed these toxic minerals from contaminating the rivers. The mine is expected to be operational until 2031.



Polar[izing] Climate Science

72 x 72 in

Oil on Canvas

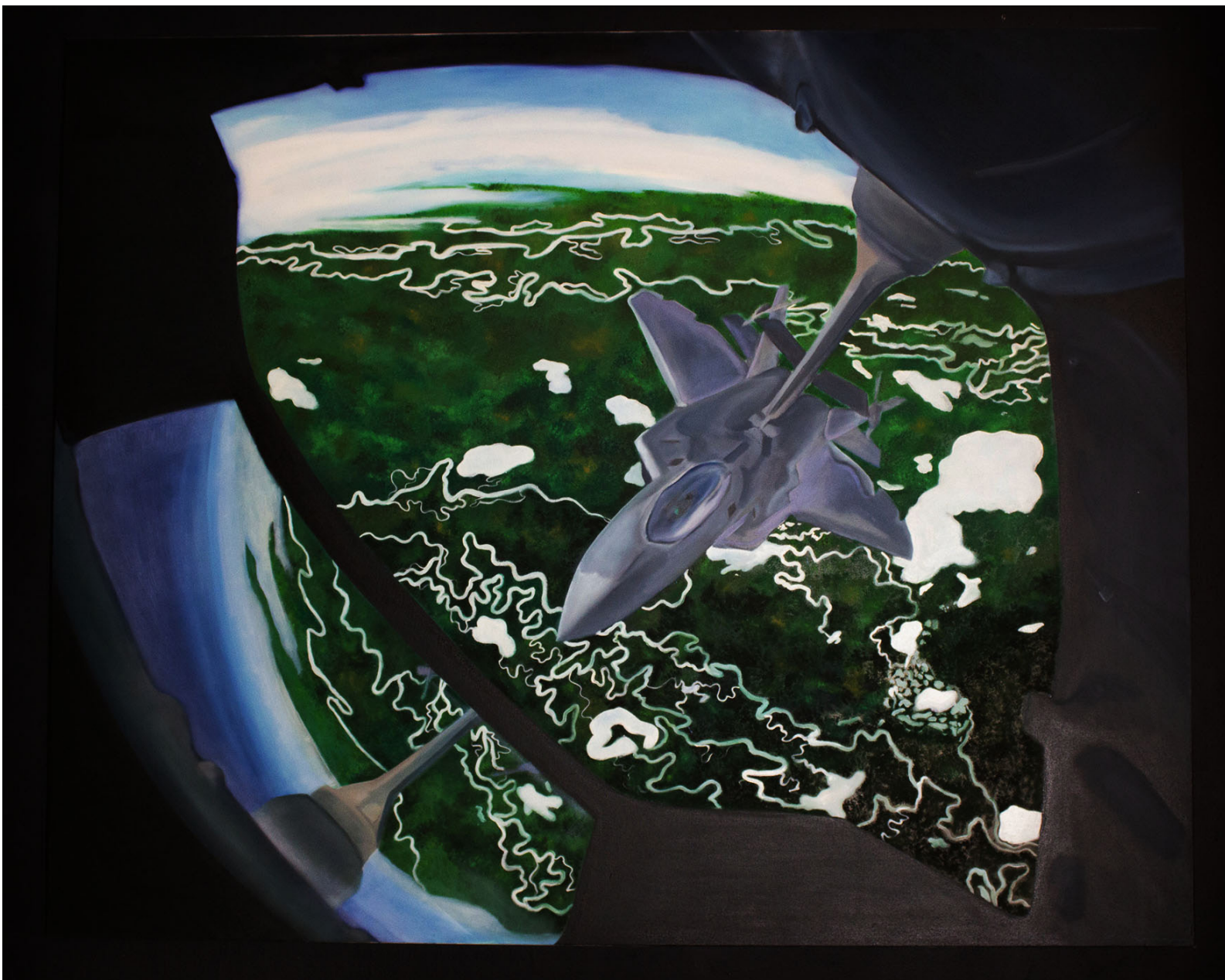
2019

The wealth of the world's people in the tropic, subtropic, and temperate zones around the world is the wealth that they grow with cotton, cattle, corn, wheat, those things they can do in those countries.

When you get north of 60, above the Arctic Circle, it all changes.

God put the resources there in oil and gas, coal and diamonds and fresh water, and those kinds of things.

Poker Flats Research Range is the largest land based rocket research range in the world, located 30 miles north of Fairbanks, Alaska. The range incorporates rocket assembly and launching capabilities, remote data receiving stations, and ground-based satellite diagnostics needed for launch decisions concerning space, aeronomy, and atmospheric science experiments. Ground-based instrumentation allows monitoring of auroral activity, magnetic storms, ionospheric perturbations and other space disturbances in real-time.



Air Superiority
36 x 48 in
Oil on Canvas
2019

It was a long way from Washington D.C. to Alaska. You just don't know in '52, '53 and '54, how far that is. But it used to take me — I'd fly all day to get to Seattle, it would take me six to seven hours. Be an hour and a half there. Take a Northwest flight into Chicago; take about five or six hours there. Layover a couple of hours. Finally get to Washington D.C. I remember making 10 trips in one calendar year at my own expense. I didn't have any money. [but I had] To be there because I had committed,

*"When you want me there, I'll be there."
That's how we got the most unique state in the union.*

From 1996 to 2011 exactly 195 F-22 Raptor single seat, twin engine all-weather stealth aircrafts were developed for the US Air Force by Lockheed Martin Aeronautics. With a range of 1,850 miles and the capability to refuel midair, this \$143,000,000 aircraft is one of the most tactfully advanced and intricate pieces of human engineering created in the 21st century, representing the air superiority of the US Air Force. This scene shows a Harrier Jet refueling an F-22 near Eielson Air Force Base, which is 26 miles south of Fairbanks, Alaska.

*Q: Mr. Secretary, how should the U.S. promote energy independence?
Is the problem political or technological?*

WH: Political.

There's no doubt about it. Prudhoe Bay, there's no problem on how to do it.

As I mentioned before, we have to be independent of energy. You go down to Long Beach, California, and every 10 acres see these pumps, pumps, pumps, all over the place. Nobody says a thing. But Prudhoe Bay? You can't do that. ANWAR, you can't do that. The first well we drilled up there. I said drill and the next well is six-and-a-half miles away. We don't have them every 10 acres. Prudhoe Bay is the finest oil development spot on earth and I have traveled here. I've seen it. So they want to fly to Prudhoe Bay. How are you going to do it without energy. As I mentioned here, we're [operating at] 60 percent now.

We're no longer free. If a nation is not independent of energy, it's not independent. It can be dependent upon steel from someplace, shipped from someplace, but not energy.

If you're not independent, you're not free.

The Alyeska Pipeline brings crude oil to a global market and has supported the economy of Alaska since that black gold first flowed through its pipes. Constructed between 1974 and 1977, this 800 mile pipe stretches from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez, Alaska. Over half the pipe is elevated with 78,000 vertical supports in areas where the pipe cannot be buried due to permafrost. The ingenuity of this design allows for constant flow of crude, supporting industries which provides access to transportation, food production and distribution, and material goods from medical devices, to plastics and luxury items.



Black Gold
66 x 66 in
Oil on Canvas
2018



Arctic Standard Oil
 36 x 48 in
 Oil on Canvas
 2019

“I went to the White House personally and I said, "Mr. President, that's a great idea. The young would love it. Make it a national holiday. We have all these other holidays. Earth Day should be." And he wouldn't do it. Some of his advisors, I've named three already. They said, "Oh, that's not important." But Earth Day was a great thing because God even understands Earth Day. It's not for environmental or development, it's Earth Day. Understand the Earth. And the Earth was made not for the whites, the blacks, the Jews, the Catholics, the Romans, the Empires, the German, the English, it was made for all people and that's why it was owned in common. Nobody is going to homestead the ocean. But it's an obligation and without strong government police, they rape the ocean. My god, that's why I put the blue whale on the Endangered Species list. It would be a crime beyond belief if, in the same decade, that man walked on the moon and man destroyed the largest creature God ever put on Earth. Less than 200 of them. Nobody cared.

No one owns something, no one cares.

So you do it for the benefit of the total, and not for some leader, some oligarch or some company.”

Bowhead Transportation is the oil service company that brings refined petroleum back to the North Slope of Alaska where the crude is extracted. The gas prices shown are the price of regular and diesel fuel in Utqiagvik, the northernmost community in Alaska. This company is a testament to the difficulty of producing and transporting this resource, which is incredibly useful in oil extraction. While this representation is the only imagined space in the show, it is a testament to the vast distances that gas travels just to arrive at the pump.