

Vernissage

with the presence of the artist

Paola Folicaldi Suh

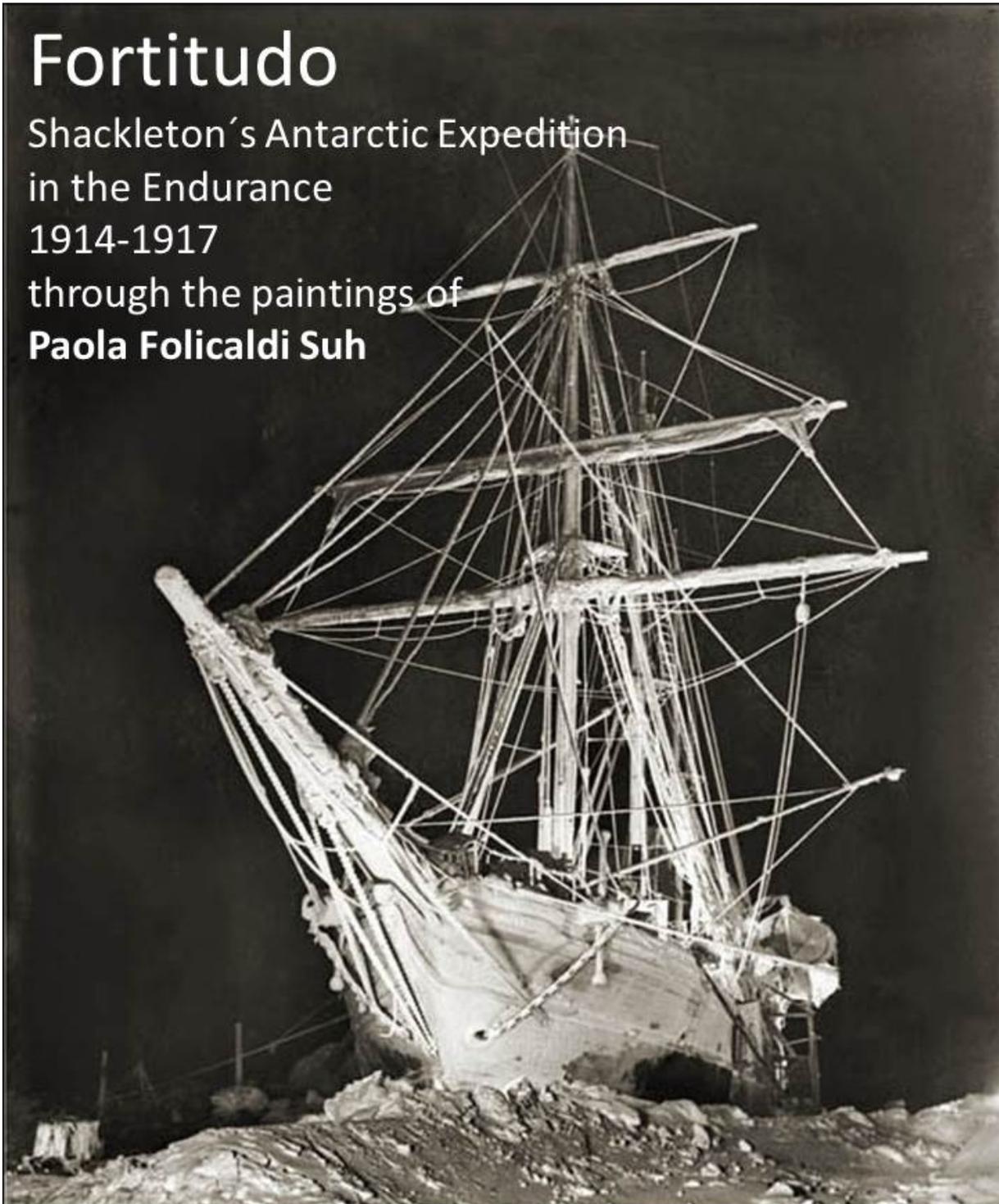
Opening by Roland Psenner. President of
EURAC

Fortitudo

Shackleton's Antarctic Expedition
in the Endurance

1914-1917

through the paintings of
Paola Folicaldi Suh



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Eintritt frei



austrian
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Information about the artist

Paola Folicaldi Suh



With the exhibition **Fortitudo**, Italian painter **Paola Folicaldi Suh** brings new life to the dramatic history of **Sir Ernest Shackleton**'s expedition to the Antarctic in the **Endurance** during 1914-1917. Folicaldi devoted more than two years to studying the expedition and evoking the spirit and atmosphere through an epic painting cycle. She has worked partly from black and white photographs brought back by Frank Hurley, the expedition photographer, and has succeeded in re-creating the atmosphere, the lighting, and the drama and peril of the expedition in a way never previously achieved. In addition to these reproductions, she has also created original scenes. The exhibition has already been displayed at the Palazzo Buonaccorsi, Macerata, Italy, Clare Hall, Cambridge, UK, the latest exhibit took place in New Zealand. The exhibition wants to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the expedition and of the sinking of the *Endurance* in the ice of the Weddell Sea. Its title derives from the motto of Sir Shackleton's family "Fortitudine Vincimus – By Endurance We Conquer".

Paola Folicaldi Suh was born in Fermo, Italy, and lives now in Stockholm. She studied book restoration at the *Scuola del Libro* in Urbino, and then at the *Istituto Centrale della Patologia del Libro* in Rome. Artist and painter, she specialises in portraits and paintings with psychological introspection. This is the first time that she has tested her skills with a history of exploration and polar ice. The men's portraits are in oil on sackcloth, while the panels are painted on tapestry materials, with a mixed technique of oil and tempera.

FORTITUDO

CHRONOLOGY OF THE *ENDURANCE* EXPEDITION

(1914 - 1917)

Part of Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition. His plan was to reach the Antarctic Coast of the Weddell Sea and establish a base on the continent. Shackleton with five men would then traverse the unexplored part of Antarctica to the South Pole and reach the opposite side on Ross Island following the route used by Scott and Shackleton himself. The Ross Sea Party, a support group of 28 men with the ship *Aurora* would reach Ross Island from New Zealand to lay depots to support Shackleton after he reached the South Pole.

1914

- August 1 *Endurance* leaves London.
- August 8 After waiting for developments following the declaration of war (Churchill told Shackleton "Proceed") *Endurance* leaves Plymouth bound for Buenos Aires. Shackleton was not on board.
- October 9 *Endurance* arrives at Buenos Aires. Repairs needed. Shackleton joins the expedition with Frank Wild, his second-in-command.
- October 26 *Endurance* leaves for South Georgia.
- November 5 *Endurance* arrives at South Georgia. Shackleton informed by the Norwegian whalers that the ice was very bad that year.
- December 5 *Endurance* leaves for Antarctica from the whaling station of Grytviken, South Georgia. 28 men on board.
- December 11 In the Weddell Sea. *Endurance* enters the pack ice at 59°46' S, 18°22' W.

1915

- January 10 Going west, *Endurance* sights a new coastline, named Caird Coast after the main sponsor, Sir James Caird.
- January 18-19 Ship beset in the heavy pack of the Weddell Sea, at 76°34' S, 31°30' W.
- February 24 Winter sets in. The beset ship becomes a drifting ice station.
- February-August The beset ship drifts with the ocean.
- August 1 First attack from ice pressure.
- August-October More attacks. Shackleton realises that the ship is doomed.

- October 27 *Endurance* abandoned at 69°05' S, 51°32' W. The men camp on the ice. 'Ocean Camp' established 1.5 miles from the ship.
- November 21 *Endurance* sinks, at 68°38.5' S, 52°28' W.
- December 23-29 Attempt to drag the boats over the ice.
- December 29 'Patience Camp' established on a large ice floe.

1916

- January-April The camp drifts with the currents. Dangerous situation.
- April 9 The ice floe breaks up. The three boats (*James Caird*, *Dudley Docker*, *Stancomb Wills*) are launched.
- April 15 After terrible dangers the three boats reach Elephant Island, 497 days after leaving South Georgia.
- April 24 Shackleton, Worsley, Crean, McCarthy, McNeish and Vincent leave on the *James Caird* trying to reach South Georgia, a distance of 800 miles (1300 km) in the stormiest ocean in the world. The other 21 men remain on Elephant Island under the command of Frank Wild.
- May 8 South Georgia sighted.
- May 10 After 16 days of storms and miraculous escapes, the *James Caird* reaches South Georgia, but lands at King Haakon Bay, on the opposite side to the whaling stations.
- May 19 After resting, Shackleton, Worsley and Crean leave to cross the mountains of South Georgia, never climbed before.
- May 20 After over 36 hours of continuous travel, involving dangerous climbs and wrong routes, they reach the Norwegian whaling station of Stromness.
- May 21 The next morning the ship *Samson* with Worsley on board rescues McCarthy, McNeish and Vincent, as well as the *James Caird*, and takes them back to Stromness.
- May 24 Shackleton sails from South Georgia in the *Southern Sky* to rescue the men on Elephant Island. Ice stops the ship 60 miles from the island.
- May 30 The *Southern Sky* reaches Port Stanley, Falkland Islands, the nearest telegraph station. Shackleton informs the *Daily Chronicle* and the world of his survival. His urgent task is now to rescue the 22 men marooned on Elephant Island.
- June The Uruguayan ship *Instituto de Pesca No 1* goes to the Falklands to pick up Shackleton and sail to Elephant Island. Again, the ice stops the ship 20 miles from the island, and they return to Port Stanley.
- July Shackleton, with Crean and Worsley, leaves Port Stanley on the *Orita*, bound for Punta Arenas, Chile. There he rents the *Emma*, but she is also stopped by ice about 100 miles from Elephant Island. They return to Port Stanley.

The Chilean ship *Yelcho* goes to Port Stanley to tow the *Emma* back to Punta Arenas.

- August 14 The *Yelcho* arrives at Punta Arenas.
- August 25 Shackleton, Worsley and Crean attempt again to reach the marooned men with the *Yelcho*.
- August 30 The *Yelcho*, under Captain Lu s Pardo, reaches Elephant Island. Within one hour all the survivors are ferried to the ship. Everybody has survived.
- September 3 The *Yelcho* arrives at Punta Arenas, Chile, after a round trip of 1600 miles. Shackleton and all his men receive a rapturous welcome.
- October The rescued men return to Europe, and join the war.

+ **Alfred Cheetham** was drowned on August 22, 1918 when his ship was torpedoed in the North Sea by a German U-boat. He was 51.

+ **Timothy McCarthy** was drowned off the coast of Ireland on March 16, 1917. He was 28.

Shackleton rushed from South America to New Zealand, to participate in the rescue of the Ross Sea Party of the Trans-Antarctic Expedition. The *Aurora* reached Ross Island on January 10, 1917. Three men had died during that part of the expedition. The ship reached Wellington, New Zealand, on February 9, 1917, and the men joined the war.

+ **Ernest Wild**, brother of Frank Wild, Shackleton's second-in-command, died on March 10, 1918 in the Mediterranean while mine-sweeping. He was 38.

  *Maria Pia Casarini*

Director of Cambridge Polar Consultants, Cambridge, UK