

## Triumph Winterfest opens Dec. 23

Exhibit will feature eight life-sized bear sculptures

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DAILY STAFF REPORT

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VAIL, Colorado — The town of Vail's Art in Public Places' fifth annual Triumph Winterfest Arctic Wandering by Karl Krueger opens Dec. 23.

Developing upon his Triumph Winterfest exhibition from last year, "Arctic Wandering" will be comprised of eight life-sized snow polar bear sculptures and a cub placed throughout Vail Village and the Gore Creek Promenade. A series of paw prints will lead guests to find the celebration of polar bears in new locations for this year's Triumph Winterfest. An expanded three-year charitable financial commitment from Triumph Development is enabling this popular outdoor snow and ice sculpture exhibition to continue in Vail through 2015.

Krueger, a local artist and architect, first introduced his snow polar bear creations during Vail's "Dummy Demolition" competition in 2009. When his 800-pound snow polar bear constructed on a wooden and wire frame did not suffer any harm during its launch in Golden Peak, the bear found a temporary home in the heart of Vail Village. The affection for this temporary winter sculpture evolved into the theme for Art in Public Places fourth collaborative outdoor ice and snow exhibition with Triumph Development. He captured the simplified beauty of the majestic polar bear in this exhibition.

Karl Krueger, born and raised in the Vail Valley, received his Master of Architecture from Yale University in 1998. His art ranges from traditional oil paintings to mixed media sustainable constructions. He succeeds in finding inventive solutions by using everyday materials for this art objects.

"In the case of the Triumph Winterfest exhibition, the question is what to do with snow?" Krueger said. "Polar bears are of the snow and from the snow. The idea that this animal would be so reflective of, integrated with, and inseparable from snow as a landscape, is ideal idea for a winter sculpture installation. You definitely see beauty in a polar bear's characteristic form. I hope you will see this in my polar bear sculptures."

Triumph Winterfest will begin amidst the festivities of the holiday season and in conjunction with "Holidaze" in Vail. The exhibition opens in two phases. On Dec. 23, four snow polar bear sculptures will be installed in Vail Village with the remaining bears placed the first week in January. The official celebration of the Triumph Winterfest will take place during the evening of Jan. 13 along the Gore Creek Promenade. In collaboration with Pink Monkey Solutions, the sculptures will be illuminated during the evening hours with a lighting design tailored for all to enjoy.

Additional events and activities around the Triumph Winterfest may be found on [artinvail.com](http://artinvail.com). The exhibition will be on view through Feb. 13.

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