ART

The Sea of Ice
Caspar David Friedrich, 1823–24
Oil on canvas

Friedrich's dramatic painting is an imagined view of the Arctic, which Friedrich had never seen. Familiar with the freshwater breakup of river ice on the Elbe River, he transposed it into this scene of Arctic shipwreck. The jagged, piled ice towering over the trapped ship off to one side offers a bleak view of the power of nature.

Courtesy BPK Bildagentur / Hamburger Kunsthalle / Elke Walford / Art Resource, NY