



"Iceberg III" 2006, 100 x 122 cm, c-print

Inspired by the story of "The Mother of the Sea", Tiina Itkonen set off, in 1995, to the place where the story originated, in Greenland...

... She was so fascinated by this encounter, that for over ten years now, she has traveled regularly to Greenland to spend time with, and photograph, Polar Eskimos and the Polar landscape.

Having visited Greenland over such a long period, Tiina Itkonen has become a witness to the disasters of global warming. She noticed that winters became warmer and sea ice has thinned out. The effects have terrible consequences for hunters but also for the environment since more and more icebergs are calving from glaciers reducing the inland ice.

During her last visits in Greenland, Tina Itkonen has been particularly concentrating on photographing icebergs. She describes their beauty with fascination "When I close my eyes I am in Greenland, and the silence is perfect. Bluish light dances across the snow; the icebergs glow turquoise. The silence is broken by a loud crack. An iceberg splits, creating new, smaller icebergs. The ice can be surprisingly varied in color, from crystal clear, through bright white, to dazzling blue. Some of the icebergs look like pyramids, while others resemble whales' tails. The largest can rise like huge apartment blocks a hundred meter over the surrounding sea – and it's easy to forget that about 90% of each iceberg lies concealed beneath the waves."

Tina Itkonen's icebergs are treated as everyday sights rather than exotic monuments.

In her work, the empty beauty of the place, devoid of cars, roads, or signs, has a magnetic resonance. Sometimes it is difficult to identify what we are looking at, there seems to be no depth in this gleaming whiteness. > *Tiina Itkonen was born in 1968 in Helsinki. She graduated from the University of Art and Design Helsinki in 2002.*

# Tiina Itkonen



