

WOOLRICH GREENLAND ROADTRIP 2006

Photographs by
TIINA ITKONEN

INTRODUCTION

THE WOOLRICH ROAD TRIP COLLECTION is based on the collaboration with international art photographers. All of them give their own interpretation and vision of the Woolrich lifestyle and world of reference.

The Fall Winter 2006 Roadtrip reached the world's largest island and the nearest land to the North Pole, Greenland, seen by the eyes of one of the most important photographer of the Helsinki School, Tiina Itkonen.

Born in Helsinki in 1968, Tiina studied photography at the School of Art and Communication in Turku and at the University of Art and Design in Helsinki. She has been exhibiting in Finland and abroad since 1996. The latest exhibitions have been in London, Frankfurt, New York, Paris. Her works are in the following collections: Moderna Museet in Stockholm, Helsinki City Art Museum and the Finnish State Art Collection.

Tiina Itkonen was Finnish Young Photographer of the Year 2003 and a Fotofinlandia finalist in 1996 and 2004. Her book "Inughuit" was published in 2004. She has spent six months living with Polar Eskimos in Northern Greenland during 1995, 1998, 2002 and 2005.





North Pole 3 hrs.
15 min.

Copenhagen 4 hrs.
15 min.

Los Angeles 6 hrs.
45 min.

New York 4 hrs.

Moscow 5 hrs.
20 min.

Tokyo 10 hrs.
05 min.

Paris 4 hrs.
45 min.

Frankfurt 4 hrs.
40 min.

London 3 hrs.
25 min.

GREENLAND

GREENLAND, WHICH IS both the world's largest island, and the nearest land to the North Pole, is located between North America and Europe. It has 57,000 inhabitants, of whom almost 15,000 live in *Nuuk*, the island's capital. Greenland is only settled around its coasts, and 85% of the country is covered by an ice cap, more than three kilometres thick in places.

Distances can be enormous. The island's southern tip *Kap Farvel*, lies more than 2,500 kilometres from the country's northernmost point, *Kap Morris Jesup*. People do not travel between Greenland's towns by car, but by plane, ferry or dog sled.

Photo locations:

IKERASAK [Pop. 286]

UUMMANNAQ [Pop. 1,275]

QAARSUT [Pop. 204]

OQAATSUT [Pop. 55]

ILULISSAT [Pop. 4,413]

ILIMANAQ [Pop. 84]

WN Network 2006



1.

ILULISSAT ILIMANAQ OQAATSUT







ILULISSAT

ILULISSAT, GREENLAND'S THIRD largest settlement, is a city of icebergs, home to as many dogs as people. This is not unusual in Greenland, and in the villages of the north dogs greatly outnumber people. The dogs live outdoors all year round, and can endure the harshest frosts. Dog teams work hard pulling sleds all winter long, but when the snow finally melts they get a well-earned summer holiday. Whenever an emergency siren sounds in a Greenlandic village, it is joined by a chorus of thousands of howling dogs.









A FEW WORDS OF WEST GREENLANDIC

Kalaallit Nunaat – Greenland

Qanoq ateqarpit? – What is your name?

Aluu – Hi

Qujanaq – Thank you

Ajunngilaq – Ok

Immaqa agaqu – Maybe tomorrow

Aap / suu – Yes

Naamik – No

Issi – Cold

Nanoq – Polar bear

Takuss – See you







IMMAQA AGAQU

IN GREENLAND THE WEATHER can change surprisingly quickly. In the morning it might be fine – ‘sila nuanneq’ – but by midday a snowstorm can easily white out the whole scene. During bad weather helicopters and planes remain grounded, and the ferries stay in port. ‘Immaqa agaqu’ – maybe tomorrow. Strong winds and a blizzard have already delayed the departure of the boat to *Ilimanaq* for a day and a half.











FROM ILULISSAT TO ILIMANAQ

TRAVELLERS ON THE FERRY from *Ilulissat* to *Ilimanaq* can enjoy the beautiful natural spectacle of countless icebergs drifting by. The ice can be surprisingly varied in colour, 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 metres over the surrounding sea – and it's easy to forget that about 8/9 of each iceberg lies concealed beneath the waves. The ferry barges its way past smaller lumps of ice, but steers a careful course away from larger bergs.

The icebergs float slowly away from *Ilulissat* on their last fateful journey. Some of them might drift for up to 4,000 kilometres before they finally melt away. The *Ilulissat Ice Fjord* is a UNESCO world heritage site. Its eastern waters are fed by the melting *Sermeq Kujalleq* glacier, which gives birth to more icebergs than any other glacier in the northern hemisphere.

























2.

UUMMANNAQ IKERASAK QAARSUT



UUMMANNAQ

ABOUT FIVE HUNDRED kilometres north of the Arctic Circle lies the beautiful village of *Uummannaq*, nestled beneath a heart-shaped mountain. *Uummannaq* can only be reached during good weather, by flying in a small Dash 7 plane as far as *Qaarsut*, and then completing the journey by helicopter.

The village endures more than two months of day-round darkness each winter, before the sun finally reappears above the horizon at the end of January. But this also means that in the summer the midnight sun shines during two months of continuous daylight.

Uummannaq is full of unforgettable images, with its colourful wooden houses on the mountainside, dog sleds whisking off in flurries of snow, high mountain peaks looming behind veils of cloud, luminous blue icebergs shining after the sunset, fishing boats resting on the frozen sea, crisp arctic frosts, and warming sunshine...

















DOG SLED

DOG SLEDS ARE the most reliable, peaceful and comfortable means of transportation in the deep snows of the far north. Dogs will never let their human companions down, whereas a motor sled can easily refuse to start. And all they need for fuel is a generous helping of raw meat or fish.

Uuli Joorut shouts out ‘iu iu’, and the dog sled turns to the left. A call of ‘ili ili’ steers the dogs to the right. When they hear the word ‘*unigit*’, the dogs know they have reached the end of their journey. A trip by dog sled from *Ikerasak* to *Uummannaq* takes about five hours.







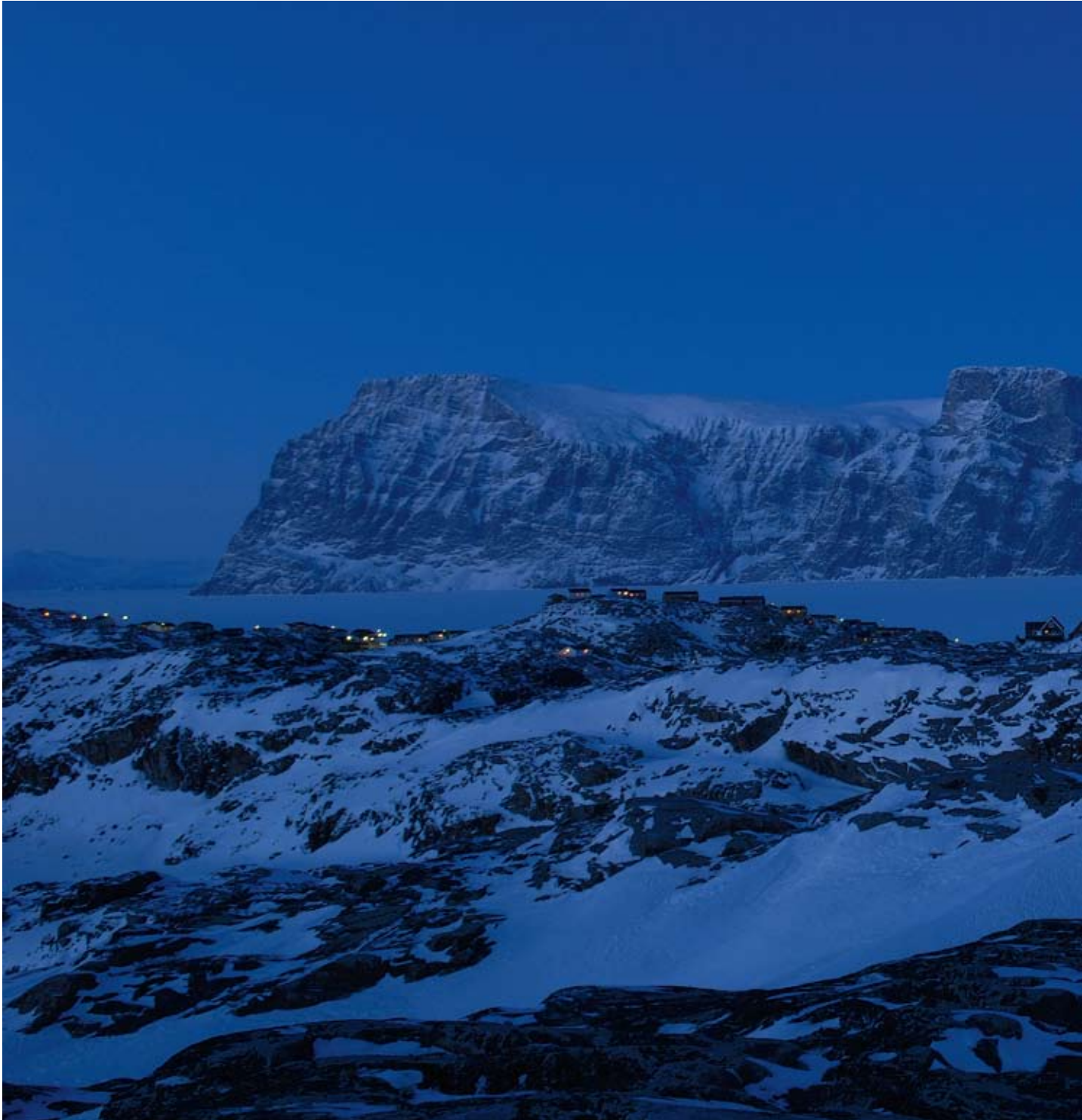


















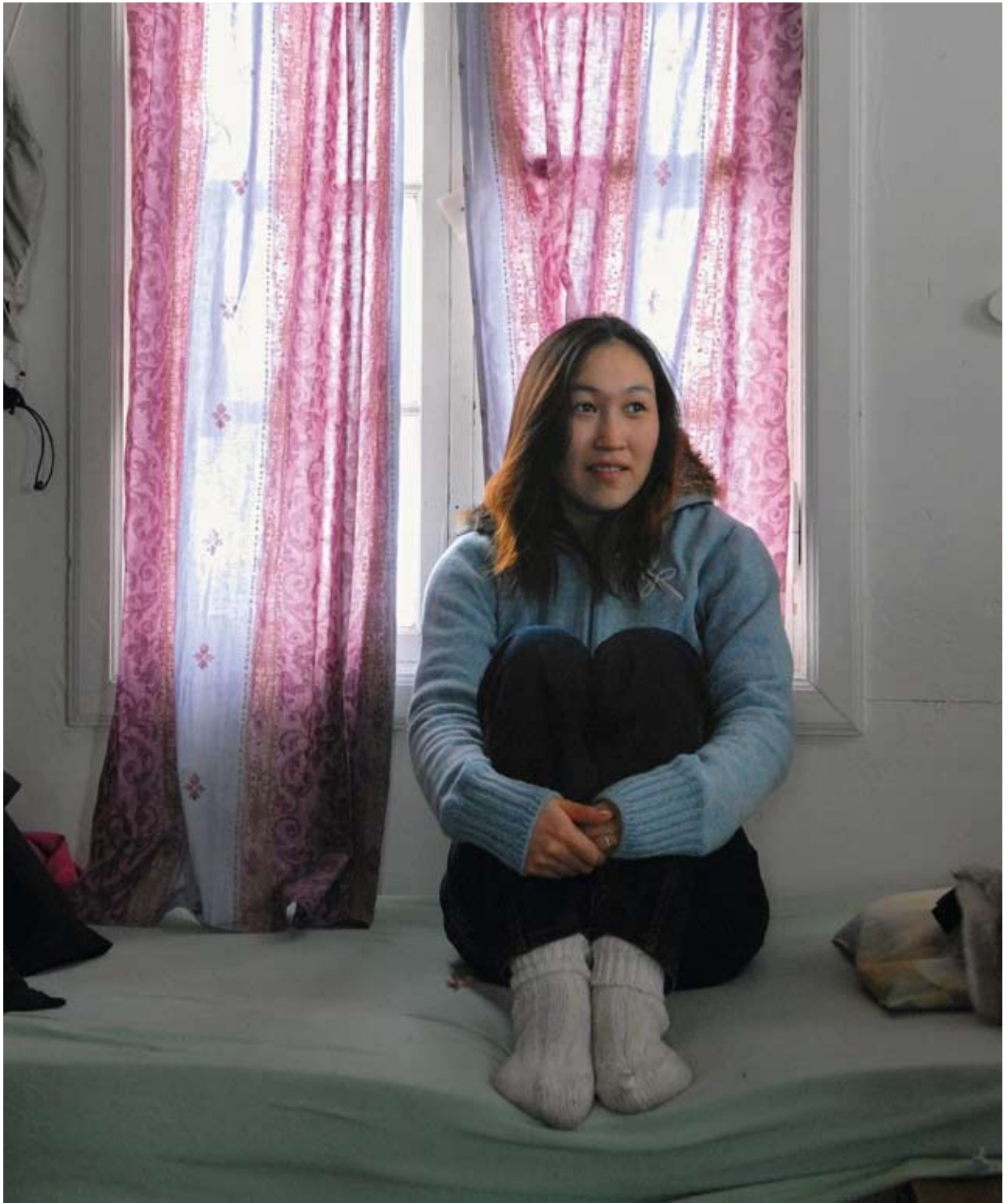
CELEBRATION

THE WORLD'S NORTHERNMOST children's home houses a couple of dozen youngsters in a cheerful blue building. On one spring day the whole village turns up to celebrate 13-year-old *Najaaraq's* confirmation. The local delicacies on offer include *mattak*, which is made of raw whale skin. The merry-makers dance late into the night to tunes played by *Erik*, a local hunter, on his accordion.



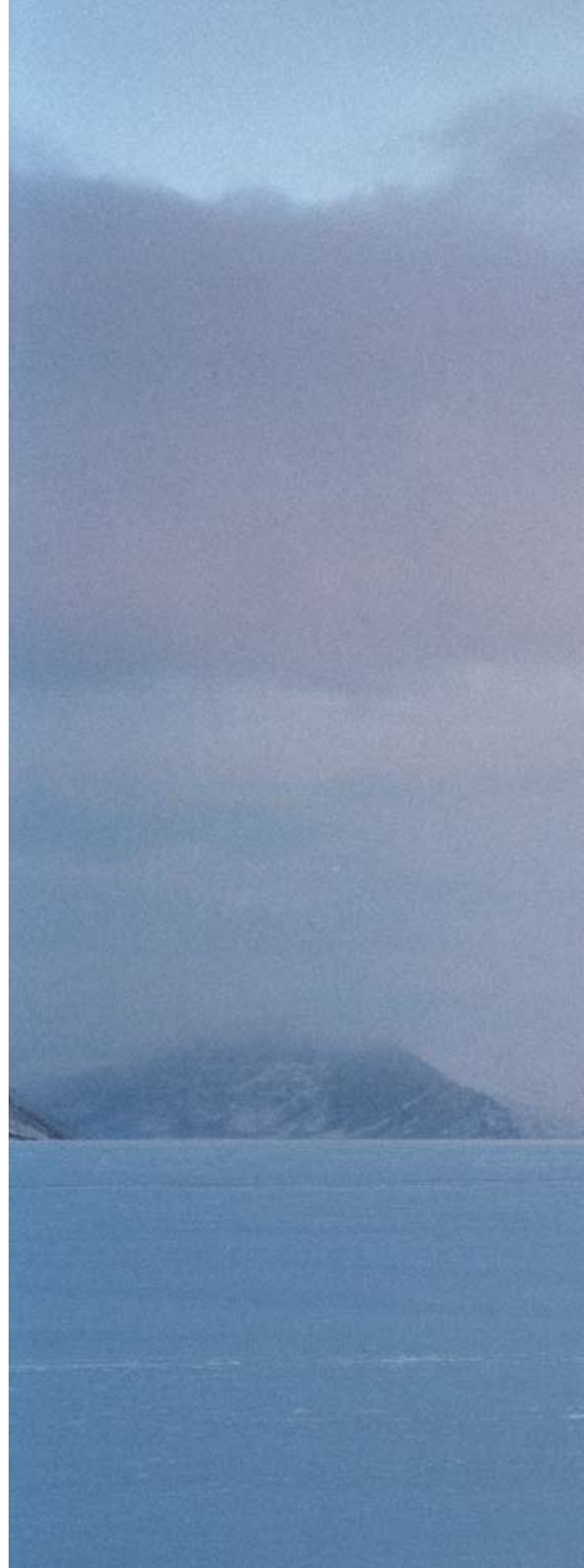






ICEBERGS

WHEN THE SEA freezes over in the autumn, an iceberg is frozen in place, like a huge sentinel guarding the route into the village. The beauty of this natural monument can be appreciated at dawn or dusk, in the moonlight, shrouded in mist, or partially hidden by a snowfall. The berg will only be able to continue its journey when the sea ice thaws in the spring.











Uummannaq







FISHING

SIMMI AND JAAKUARAQ head off by dog sled to pull up a long fishing line from 600 metres beneath the sea ice. They wind in the line using a winch set up on top of the ice. Their catch of halibut will provide plenty of food for the village's human and canine inhabitants.











FALL WINTER 2006 COLLECTION