

Feeling Blue

- Kalaallit Nunaat from above



by
Keld Jensen

Feeling Blue

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To live and travel in Kalaallit Nunaat (Greenland) often is affecting the feeling blue. This delicate feeling of thoughtfulness and melancholy which appears, when the human mind meets with great experiences.

One of the greatest pleasures in being a resident in Greenland is the flight between the cities. There are no roads between the few and small settlements on Greenland's coastline. Settlements are located in small remote communities and are mostly hundreds of miles apart. Do you have to travel to another settlement it must be done by air or by sea.

This photo series are not photos of the celebrated photographer from National Geographic, who hires a plane to fly over the Arctic wastelands. This is a photo series in which the photographs were taken by an ordinary passenger who is flying Air Greenland – with photography as a passion.

If you are lucky, you get a window seat. Now the adventure is waiting.

Whether it is an airliner on the travel over the Ice cap, a DASH-7 aircraft on route between two local airports, or a local helicopter, which carries passengers into a village without runway for fixed wing, then reveals an impressive and dramatic sight

of clouds, mountains and fiords outside the small window. The landscape seems endless.

Such an ordinary flight opens up a whole new world. One moment you flight between dramatic clouds and look down on dramatic landscapes. Then everything suddenly is changing: You have the full view into a clear blue sky and to the quiet, harmonious wastelands.

You have tremendous views when you sit up there and watch the wilderness: Rivers and lakes look like mirrors of various shapes. Often you find a new dramatic mood in the infinite no man's land between large fiords and high mountains. Unique, unknown, large rivers and fiords which throw the light back so they appear as bright strokes below dark mountains.

Lights and shadows are changing while the plane slowly moves forward. Colours range from delicate green colours in the summer to red and brown colours in the autumn. All the year you often move above endless snow- and ice-fields, only interrupted by high mountains and deep fiords.

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The Ice cap is another story. A stretch landscape of snow and ice which surface is marked by the Arctic winds. Some places the heat of the sun has melted the ice and large masses of snow form huge nameless azure lakes and roaring rivers on top of the ice cap.

You can never be sure of the weather: Suddenly you watch raindrops on the windows and the view being swallowed up by heavy, dark clouds which constantly threatens to swallow the plane completely. The wind shakes the plane, and you feel what you are just now: A vulnerable human being in a small plane on a journey in one of the world's most remote and difficult areas.

A few minutes later the plane is surrounded by a clear arctic fresh air. Now you are able to see the ice cap in the horizon and the curvature of the earth. This view reveals that despite this abundant wilderness we are living on a tiny, tiny planet surrounded by an infinite universe.

Rivers, mountains, fiords and snow-and ice-formed lines form figures. Often you think: How will it be to hike down there? Has anybody ever hiked in this wilderness?

For miles the flights often are above stretches archipelago with an infinite number of islands and islets, which has never been given a name. The Archipelago and the inland waters may be filled with huge icebergs or thousands of floes. Often a

white line of foam reveals a small vulnerable ship in difficult waters.

Up here the landscape appears as a natural abstract. It is fascinating to look down on the strange patterns of water, ice, snow and dry land, bare rocks and rock field with scrub. You are sitting in a plane, but nevertheless you feel in the middle of this wilderness.

It's almost like moving on foot. At this altitude the speed of the plane feels as the pace of the snail. Slowly the perspective is twisting, and new details emerge, while the plane is moving towards its destination.

The passenger feels like an astronaut in his space shuttle in orbit around the Earth or another planet. Is there any life down there? A journey of one hour seems like a journey on the other side of the moon.

These photographs are from numerous flights at the length and breadth of Greenland in recent years. The photographs show Greenlandic landscapes shrouded in clouds and the mysterious light. Behind every cloud and behind every mountain you will find the miracle and astonish.

In this photo series I have tried to manipulate the photos, so they form a whole and highlight the impressive forms of the landscape. All photos are finished with a duotone with a blue colour, which may help to emphasize the feeling blue.



The East Coast, flying at an altitude of 11,000 meters, August 2005

Quit

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Thumbnails





The Ice Cap, three quarters of an hour after the east coast, August 2005

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Thumbnails





Just before landing, Kangerlussuaq, August 2005

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Thumbnails





North of Narsarsuaq, May 2009

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Thumbnails





North of Narsarsuaq, half an hour before landing, May 2005

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Iceberg photographed from helicopter, the distance between Narsarsuaq and Narsaq, May 2009



Mountain tops as islands in the clouds, the distance between Narsarsuaq and Nuuk, May 2009



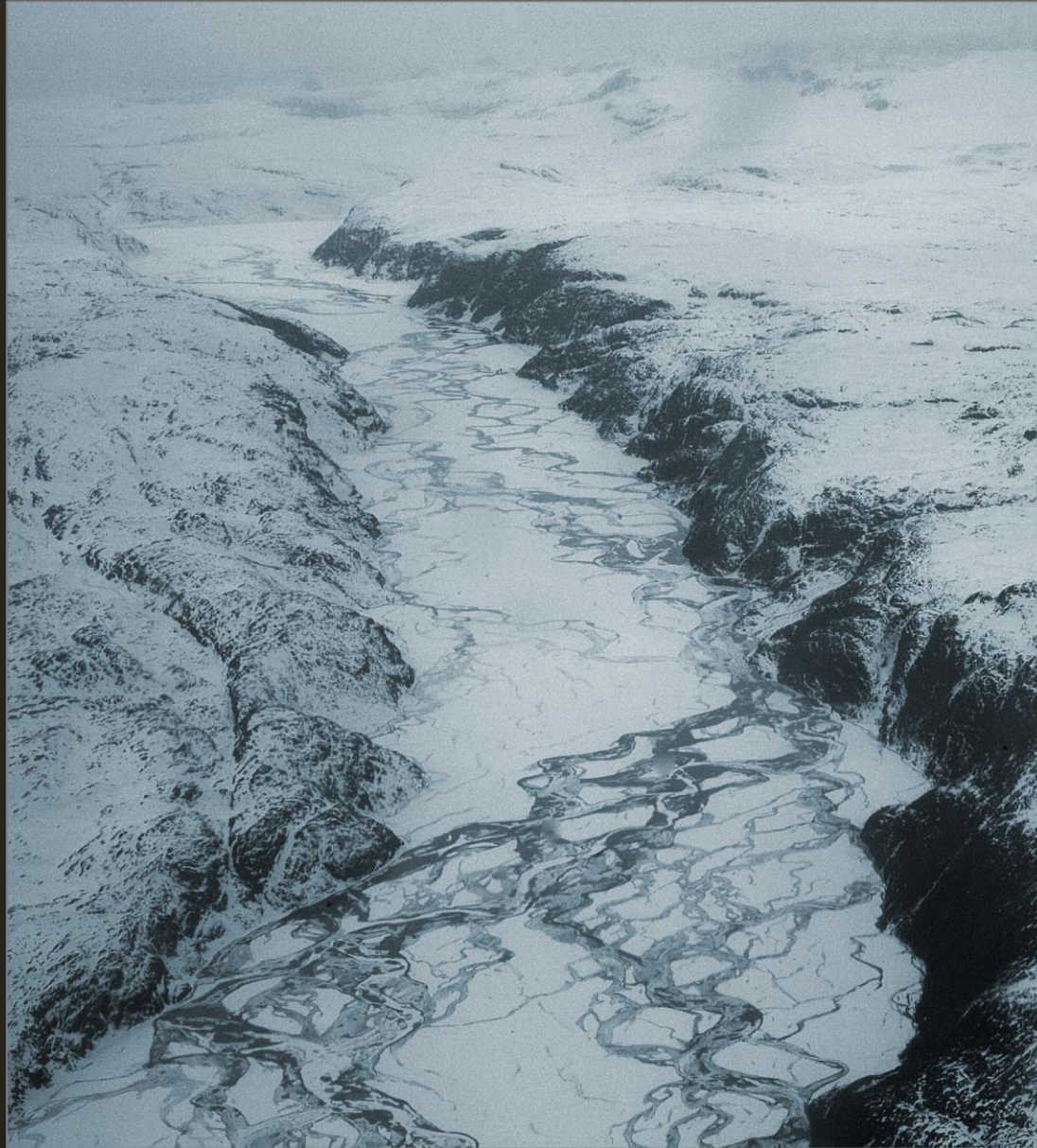
Towards Nuuk from Narsarsuaq, May 2009

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Coming from Kulusuk at the east coast towards Nuuk, May 2006



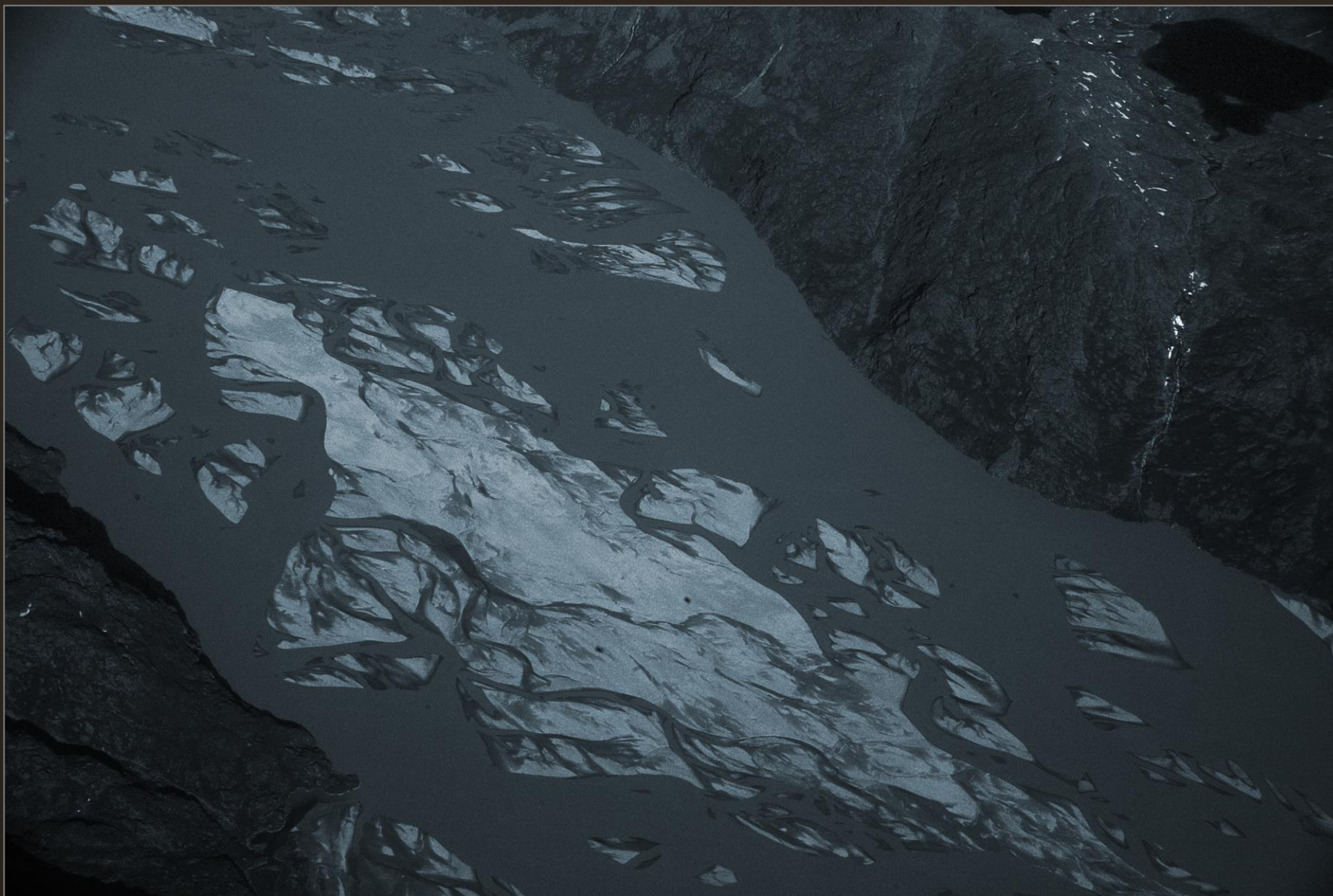
South of Nuuk coming from Narsarsuaq, August 2009

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River delta at the distance between Nuuk and Kangerlussuaq, July 2006

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Snowcovered mountains, just before landing in Nuuk, coming from Narsarsuaq, October 2009

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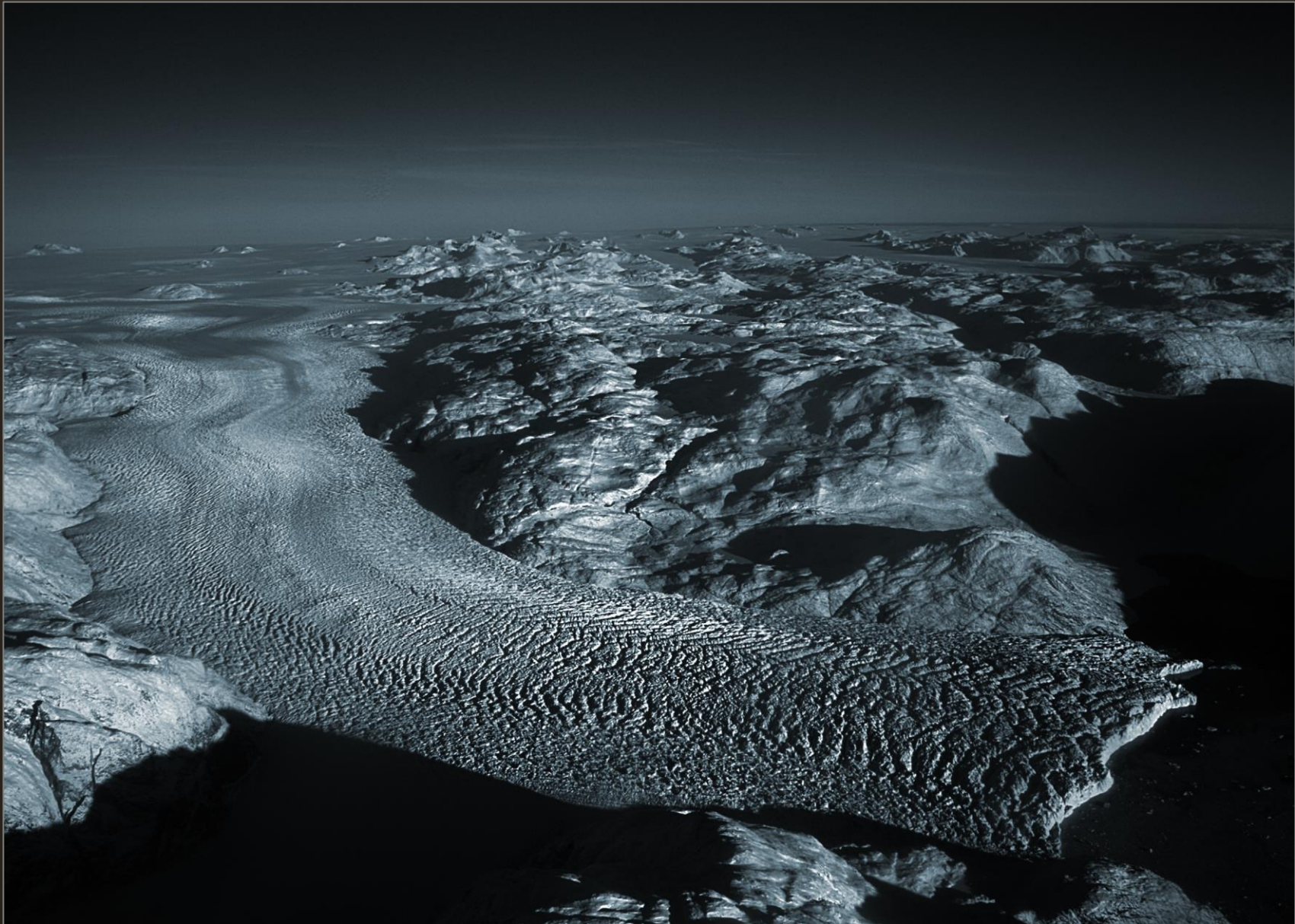
Slope in Southern Greenland, flying the distance between Narsarsuaq to the goldmine Nalunaq, October 2006

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A glacier north of Narsarsuaq at the distance to Nuuk, November 2006

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A river in backlightning south of Kangerlussuaq, coming from Nuuk, July 2007

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Pancake ice off the east coast towards Iceland from Kangerlussuaq, July 2007

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The limit of the pancake ice off the east coast of Greenland, towards Iceland from Kangerlussuaq, July 2007



Glacier at the east coast of Greenland, August 2007

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The view from the altitude of 11,000 meters over the east coast of Greenland. A flight between Iceland and Kangerlussuaq, August 2007

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Fiord and ice cap south of Kangerlussuaq, a flight to Nuuk, July 2008

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*The Kangerlussuaq Fiord,
precipitation of clay just before
landing in Kangerlussuaq, June 2003*

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COLOPHON

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