

A world of ice
- White and blue ice



by
Keld Jensen

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The ice sheet and the ice in waters surrounding Greenland are usually formed thousands of years ago. It is amazing to imagine that the ice in an ice floe, which is stranded on the coast, may be formed when the Inuit still not had taken this part of the country in its possession.

The ice can be divided into three types. The glacier ice is formed by compacted snow that turned into ice. It is characterized by a large amount of air bubbles inside the ice, and it often has a delicate light blue colour. If you put the ice into a drinking glass as ice cubes, then the bubbles release with a popping sound. Actually it is now possible to measure the age of the air in the bubbles. The researchers today reasonably accurately can determine the time of the formation of the ice.

The second type is the basal ice. This ice is filled with large and small quantities of gravel and stones. This "dirty" ice is either formed by frozen water close to the glaciers, or in layers of ice near the subsoil.

The third type is usually the most beautiful ice. It is the blue ice. The blue colour will appear when the ice is completely free of air bubbles. This makes it much bluer than the light blue colour, which can be seen in the glacial ice. The blue ice is formed when cracks in the ice are filled with water and freeze again.

The blue ice is often represented as larger or smaller bands in the other types of ice. It appears as blue lines in the white ice.



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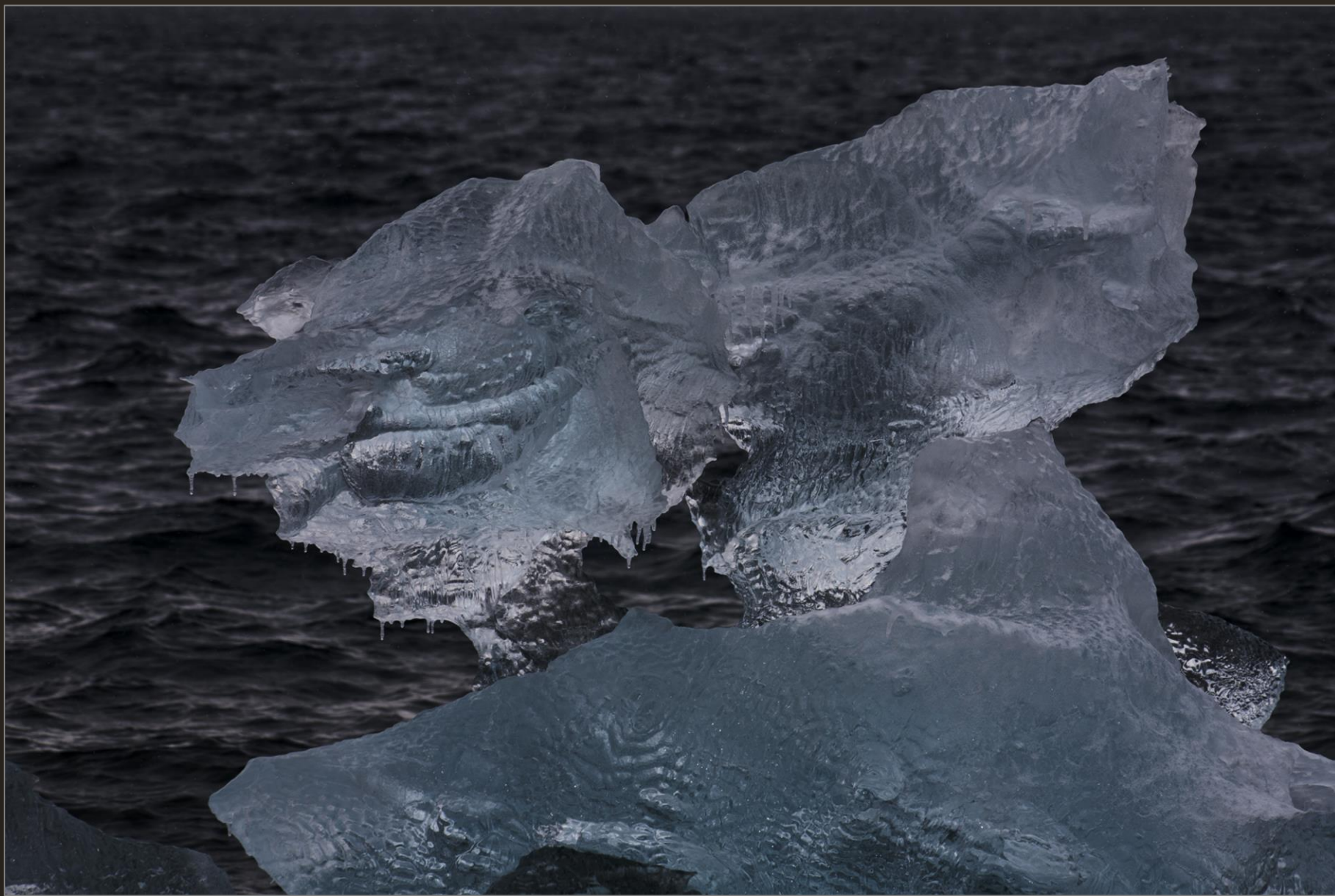


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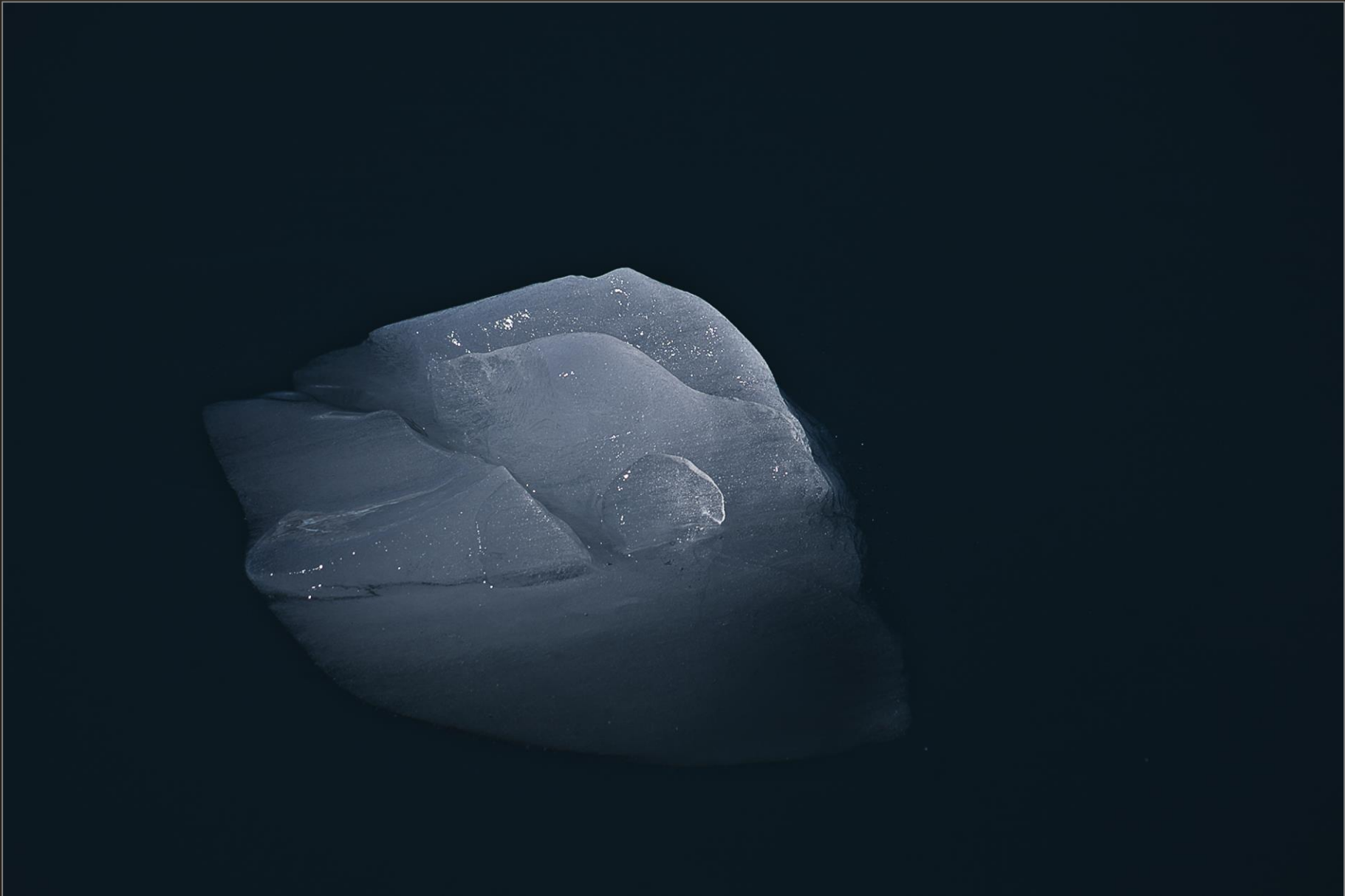


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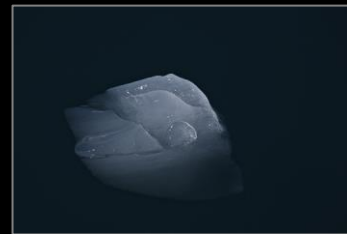
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