

# A world of ice - Introduction



*by*  
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I once visited an area near Uumman-naq, where geologists had found a new vein of zinc in the underground. Our helicopter landed near the edge of the ice sheet in a totally desolate area. In addition to rugged, bare rocks and the impressive ice edge was only some drill samples, which the researchers had left on their last visit.

The zinc-vein stood out clearly from the underground as an about twenty centimetres wide vein through the rocks. For thousands of years the vein had been hidden under huge amounts of ice, but in the recent years the climate change now had pulled the ice sheet a few hundred meters back and exposed the zinc-vein to the human eye.

One day the ice might have pulled back even further and revealed new secrets, or maybe the ice again engulfs

new landscapes in a not so distant new ice age?

Greenland is today a country in the world of ice for better or for worse. The presence of ice characterizes the nature and the human life everywhere on the big island.

The Greenlandic landscape is marked by the movements of ice over the millennia. On the west coast, most of the fiords towards the sea flow into the fishing grounds that may be formed as terminal moraines of former glaciers. The bottom of these glaciers was hundreds of meters below sea level of today.

The ice has always produced and carried large amounts of gravel. Even high up in the mountains, we can now find blocks of rock which originally belonged to far away from the place where the ice left them. Everywhere

you can identify glacial striae. Along the current coastline the ice sheet in many places stretched more than a kilometre above the landscape as we know it today.

The ice has also changed the coastlines. The appearance and the withdrawal of the ice have got the earth's crust to lower and rise, and the melted ice has been raising the surface of the sea. Today we can find old shore lines up to a few hundred meters above the current sea level in the mountains.

This photo project includes two series. *White and blue ice* comprises of a series of colour photographs. *Constantly changing sculptures* is a series of black and white photographs, which primarily focuses on the forms of ice, whether it is on the surface of the ice sheet or icebergs and ice floes in the waters around Greenland.



The exploration area. In the background the edge of the ice sheet, juni 2007





Part of the zinc vein, juni 2007





Does the ice sheet hide other minerals, and will it continue to withdraw? juni 2007

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# COLOPHON

## *A world of ice - Introduction*

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