

DE ØDE BJERGE
THE DESERTED MOUNTAINS

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De øde bjerge

Størstedelen af Grønland er fortsat dækket af is. Men langs kysterne af verdens største ø rejser høje bjerge sig. En rejse langs de grønlandske kyster er en rejse med udsigt til uendelige strækninger med øde bjergområder omkranset af dybe fjorde.

Den grønlandske kyst strækker sig mere end fyrre tusinde kilometer. På denne enorme strækning er der kun få bosætninger, der huser Grønlands 56.000 mennesker.

På en stille sommerdag virker disse bjerglandskaber venlige og lyse, men til andre tider kan man fornemme mørke kræfter, og landskaberne og vejret kan virke truende. De grønlandske aviser bringer ofte historier om mennesker, der på afsides egne har mødt en af de frygtede fjeldgængere, qivittoq.

De, der tager på telttur i den øde, grønlandske ødemark, må have oplevet at sidde ved et bål. Du er alene, men der er lyde i tusmørket. Sten der flader ned. Er det en isbjørn, der lister sig ind på os? Du fornemmer, at nogen betragter dig fra en fjern bjergskrånning. Der må være tunge kræfter på spil derude.

Lad os lige vende blikket mod England. Mere præcist mod London, og endnu mere præcist

mod et lille maleri på 50 gange 39,4 centimeter på en væg i museet Tate Britain. Det lille maleri bærer titlen The Fairy Feller's Master-Stroke. Maleriet er spækket med detaljer, der minder om de uskyldige eventyr, som vi fortæller vores børn, men der er også skabninger, der får en til at føle ubehag.

Det viser måske den virkelighed, som skaberen af værket i det meste af sit liv befandt sig i. Maleriet blev malet af den britiske kunstner Richard Dadd.

Det siges om Richard, at han havde svært ved at skelne mellem fantasi og virkelighed. Noget er der nok om snakken. Richard dræbte som ung sin far, og resten af livet var hans virkelighed lukkede anstalter.

Richards liv ændrede sig som ganske ung, da han var på ekspedition til Mellemøsten og sejlede på Nilen i Ægypten. Han forandrede sig fuldstændigt og virkede som besat. Hans egen forklaring var, at han var besat af den ægyptiske gud Osiris.

Når jeg betragter dette landskab, kan også jeg føle mig som besat. Besat af den vilde natur på verdens største ø.

The deserted mountains

Most of Greenland is still covered by ice. But all along the coast of the planet's largest island, high mountains rise. A journey along the Greenlandic coast is a journey with a view to endless stretches of deserted mountain areas with deep fjords in between.

The stretches of the Greenlandic coast reach more than forty thousand kilometres. On this huge distance, there only are few settlements that give shelter for Greenland's 56,000 inhabitants.

On a fine summer's day, these mountain landscapes seem friendly and bright, but at other times you can sense dark forces, and the landscapes and weather may seem threatening. The Greenlandic newspapers often bring stories of people, who have met one of the dreaded mountain wanderers, qivittoq.

Those who hike in the desolate Greenlandic wilderness must have experienced sitting by a bonfire; You are alone, but there are sounds in the twilight. Rocks that are falling. Is it a polar bear, sneaking in on us? And that sense that someone is watching you from a remote hillside. There must be heavy forces at play out there!

Let us turn our attention to England. More

precisely towards London, and even more precisely against a small painting of 50 by 39.4 centimetres on a wall in the Museum Tate Britain. The small painting bears the title 'The Fairy Feller's Master-Stroke'. The painting is packed with details reminiscent of the innocent adventures we tell our children, but there are also creatures that make you feel uncomfortable.

It may show the reality that the creator of the work for most of his life found himself in. The painting was painted by the British artist Richard Dadd.

It is said of Richard that he had difficulty distinguishing between fantasy and reality. There seems some truth in it. Richard, as a young man, killed his father, and for the rest of his life his reality was closed institutions.

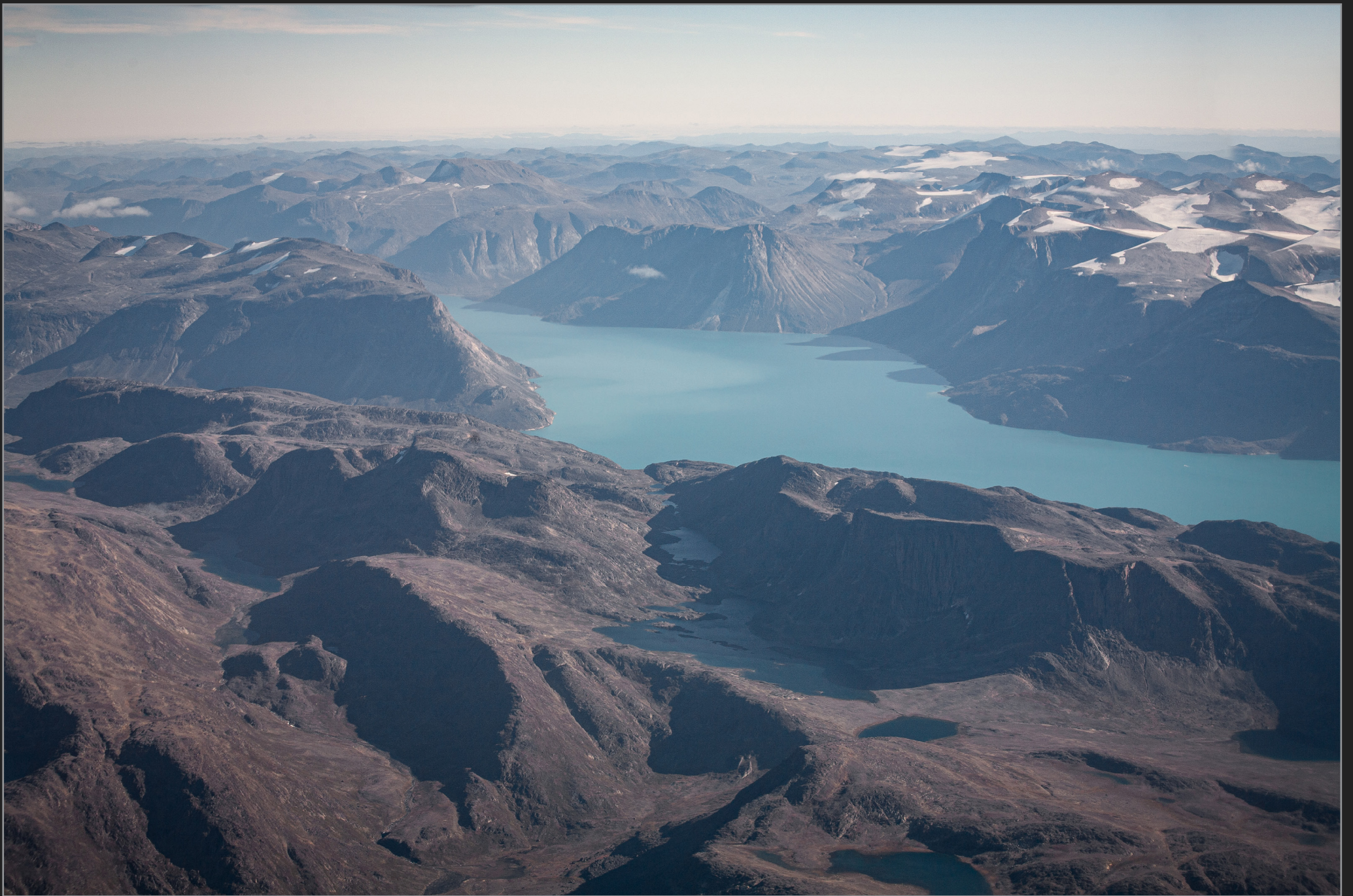
Richard's life changed, when he was on an expedition to the Middle East and sailed on the Nile in Egypt. Suddenly, he completely changed and seemed obsessed. His own explanation was that he was possessed by the Egyptian god Osiris.

When I look at this landscape, I too can feel obsessed. Obsessed with the wild, deserted nature of the largest island on this planet.



Grønlands vestkyst, september 2010

The west coast of Greenland, September 2010



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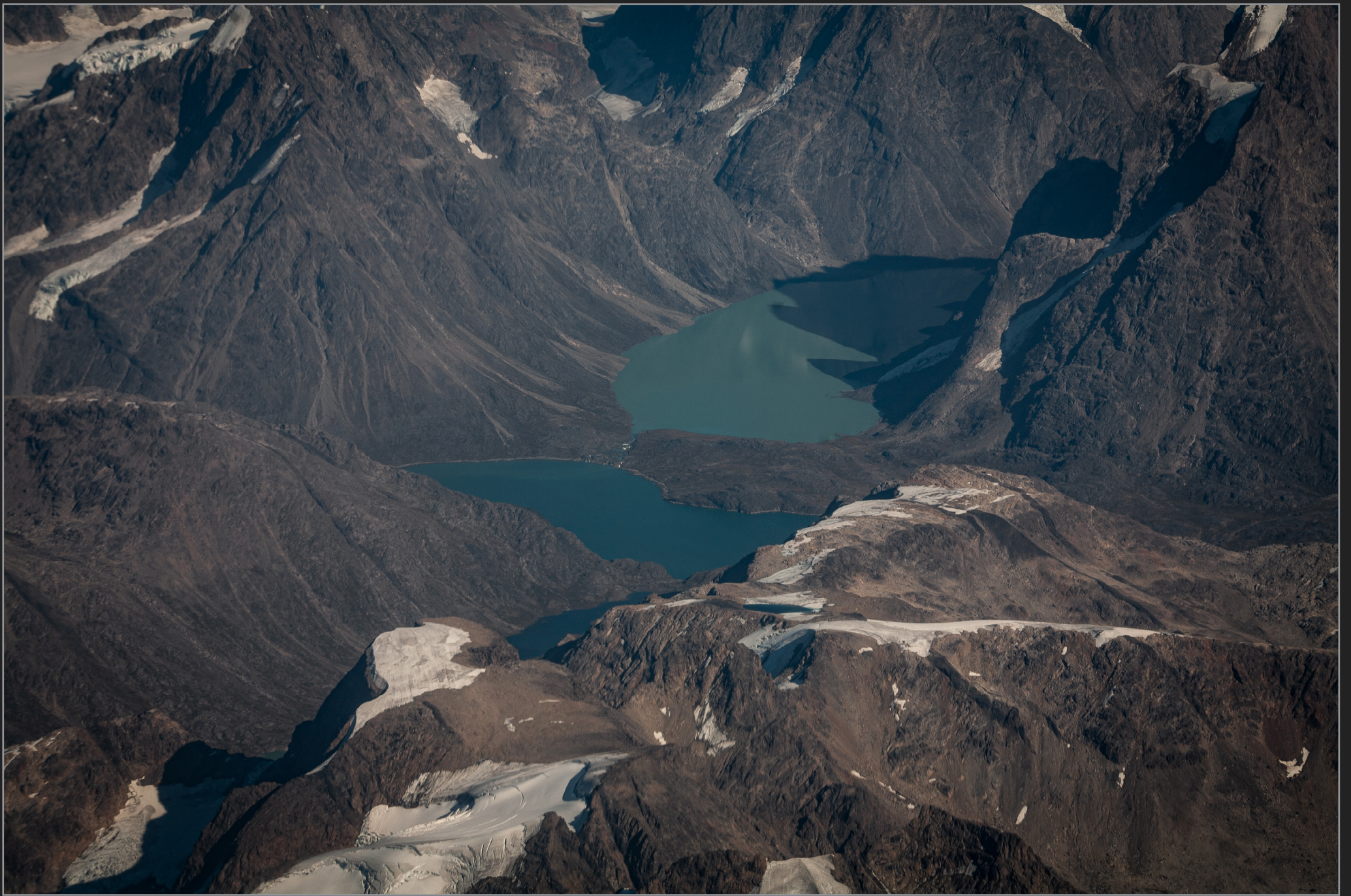
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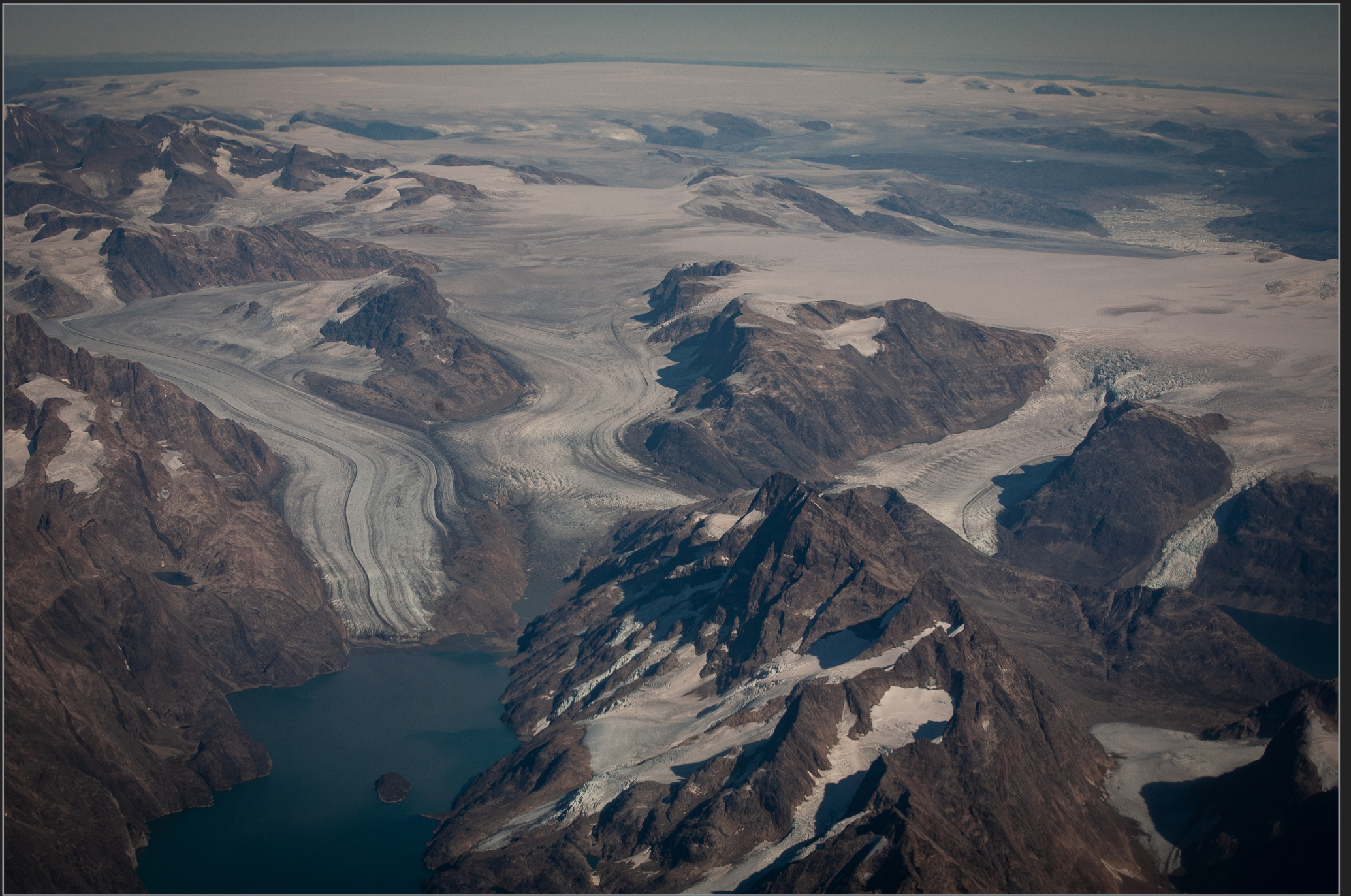
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KOLOFON

*Ugens foto: De øde bjerge
Af Keld Jensen*

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COLOPHON

*Photo of the week: The deserted mountains
By Keld Jensen*

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