

To gain insight

When I experience a breath-taking landscape in Greenland, I often get the impression that in my outer consciousness I am trying to get an important understanding of something which is normally indefinable. The Danish artist Per Kirkeby states it very precisely: *'For me it is not only to see a view, but just as much to gain insight.'*

My thoughts are pushed away from the more mundane everyday problems to thoughts of an existential nature. Per Kirkeby denotes something in his paintings as the unthinkable. I'm not quite sure what he means, but I experience the unthinkable as that I cannot put in human words. The language is unable to put into words what I feel.

Per Kirkeby is in many respects a remarkable artist. Per Kirkeby is a geologist. He worked initially as a geologist in Greenland. Today the geology is his approach to his art. The focus is on the geological layers that can be seen in the deposits that are created over millions of years.

Greenland is a unique place to study

geology. The sparse vegetation means that millions of years of geological processes are uncovered. Per Kirkeby has notably focus on the aspect that the geological landscape is a ruin of the past formed landscapes. Everywhere show stone slides the signs of breaking down formations that once existed.

Everything in the geological world is in a transformation into something else when the wind, the melt water, the ice and the frost erode mighty mountains. But these ruins are also the start of something new. Something which, according to Per Kirkeby, hopefully will form something even more beautiful than the previous landscapes.

To a geologist the landscapes of Greenland are very interesting to study. It is also very interesting to follow an artist who tries to express his impressions of the same landscapes. Once there is a person who is both a geologist and an artist, then he will inevitably arise something that can only be described as unique.



A landscape inside the Godthaabsfiord, June 2013