



RAGNAR AXELSSON **HUMAN**

(Where the World is Melting)

QERNDU
GALLERY & PUBLISHING

Series Statement

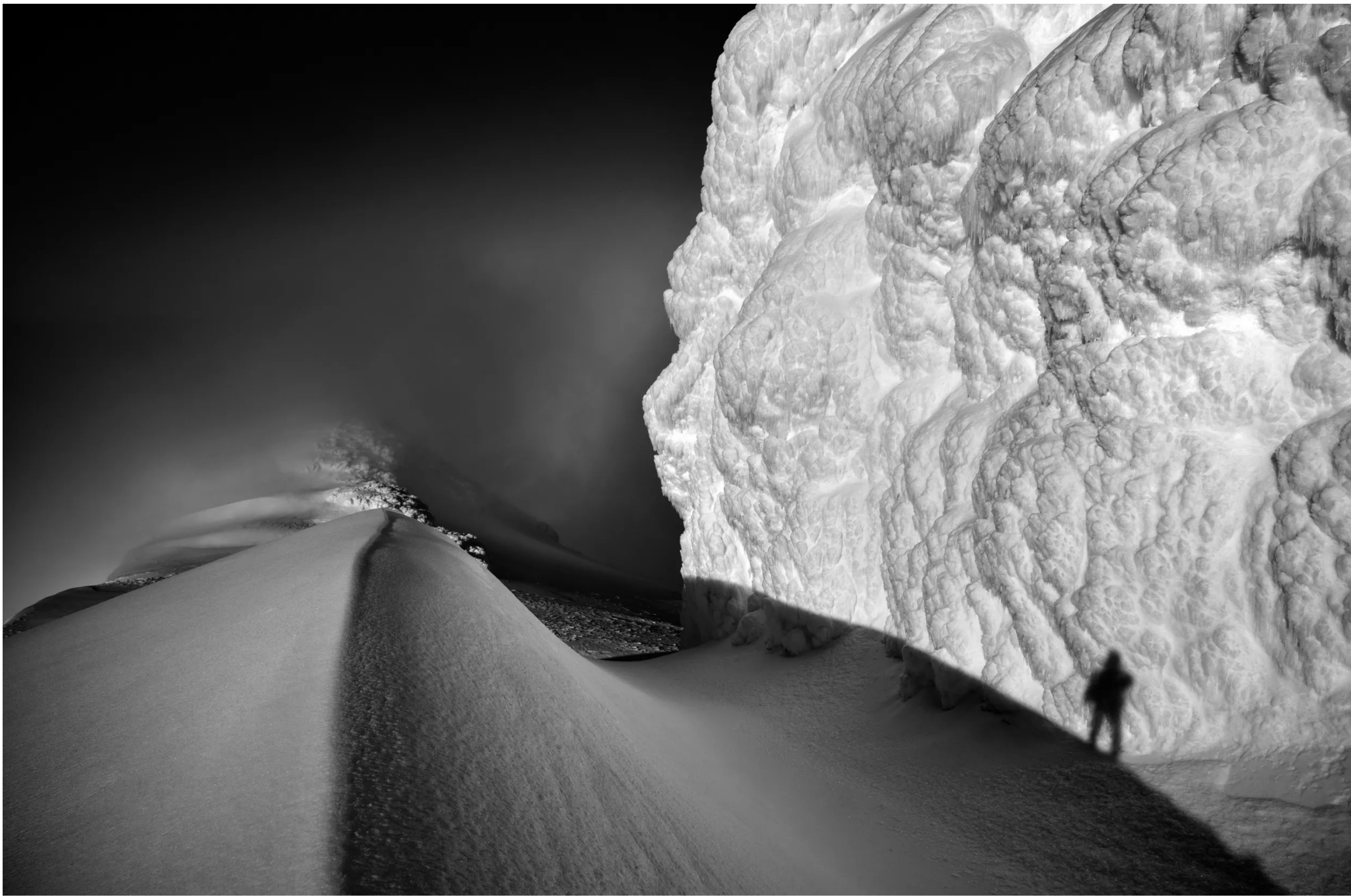
WHERE THE WORLD IS MELTING, is about documenting the lives of people living in the Arctic regions, where changes happen the fastest on Earth. Sea ice and glaciers are melting fast, and small hunting villages are being abandoned as Inuit hunting grounds are no longer sustainable. A thousand-year-old tradition of hunter-societies is on the decline. Documenting life for the whole world to see is vital, a life unfamiliar to most people. Future generations living in the Arctic will be facing a different reality.



1 — Jens Emil, Cape Hope, Greenland, 2022

"There is no hope in Kape Hope" those were the last words from the Inuit hunter, Jens Emil, when he was leaving his home village, Cape Hope, for the last time. He had to walk and pass an iceberg that was frozen in the sea ice in front of his house. Cape Hope had been his home since he was a child. Jens Emil was the last man standing in the village. There was sadness and fear in his eyes when leaving. He was moving to a bigger village, Ittoqqortoormiit.

94 x 64 cm — 4000 Euros
Edition 10 + 2AP



2. — Snæfellsjökull, Iceland, 2022.

In Jules Verne's story, JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH, the entrance to the centre of Earth is hidden in the crater of the Snæfellsjökull volcano, covered in ice. The exit is in Mount Stromboli, a volcano in Italy. The Snæfellsjökull glacier has shrunk by half in the last century. Scientists estimate that the Icelandic glaciers will disappear in 150 to 200 years. The Snæfellsjökull glacier could disappear in the next 30 to 40 years.



3. — Kötlujökull glacier, Iceland, 2021.

Mystifying faces and creatures are carved in melting glacial blocks. A new landscape emerges when the glaciers recede. Landscapes that have been covered by ice for many centuries are being rediscovered. The glacial rivers meander along the black sands. The water cycle continues after falling on the glacier ice cap in the form of snow 150 years ago. If these white giants, which have reflected the sun's light and maintained a tolerable temperature on Earth, disappear, the planet will grow warmer as the reflections of the sun's rays diminish, and more dark surfaces are exposed. The land underneath the glaciers will rise when the glaciers release their load, and eruptions will find easier paths to the surface, becoming more frequent than before.

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4. — Scoresbysund, East Greenland, 2013

Inuit hunter Ababa Hammeken on the sea ice in Scoresbysund. There was a storm warning that day. Ababa and his brother Hjelmer were heading home before the sea ice broke up in the storm and strong ocean currents. Ababa was waiting for his brother to bring the dog sledge to carry the prey they had hunted. Asking Hjelmer on our way back home, if I could grant him one wish, what would it be? Without hesitation, he replied, "Give me 25 years back in time when the sea ice was safe".

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5. — Scoresbysund, East Greenland, 2013.

When hunting on thin sea ice hunters have to be careful. It was a fight for them to get back home in the storm. In a few minutes, the ocean currents had broken up the ice leaving only open water behind them.

94 x 64 cm — 4000 Euros
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6. — Sermilik fjord, East Greenland, 2016

Hunter Tobias from Tasilaq, heading back home from the little hunting village Tiniteqilaq. In 1995 we travelled on a dog sledge on the frozen fjord, fishing through holes in the sea ice. The sea ice was thick and safe. Twenty years later, the fjord had to be travelled in a boat, and icebergs were floating around in open waters. Hunters say there has always been a difference between years in the fjord but nothing like this. Something is happening.

94 x 64 cm — 4000 Euros
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7. — The Nenets-Siberia, 2016

The Nenets are an indigenous Siberian people whose economy is driven by the reindeer meat and skins they sell. Aleksandr, a Siberian reindeer herder, was looking out for a herding ground for his flock of reindeer out on the Siberian tundra. It is a hard life as the Nenets have to move every week and find new feeding grounds for the reindeer.

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8. — The Nenets-Siberia, 2016

Tending to the herd is the daily routine for the Nenets reindeer herders. Some reindeers are to pull the sledge, and some to feed the families. Aleksandr is one of the great reindeer herders using the traditional lasso to catch a deer.

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9. — The Nenets-Siberia, 2016

It can be extremely cold on the tundra, and life is simple. However, the permafrost in the tundra is thawing. Thousands of reindeer had to be slaughtered in the springtime of 2016 due to an anthrax poisoning from the melting ground killing thousands of reindeer and affecting dozens of humans.

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10. — The Nenets-Siberia, 2016

The Nenets are facing an uncertain future. Young Oksana was sitting in the snow in her camp on the tundra, she was a bit worried about her future as things are changing fast. The Nenets have to face the threat to their way of living.

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