

Posted on September 20, 2009
Filed Under PEEP THIS!

An African in Greenland Comes to NY

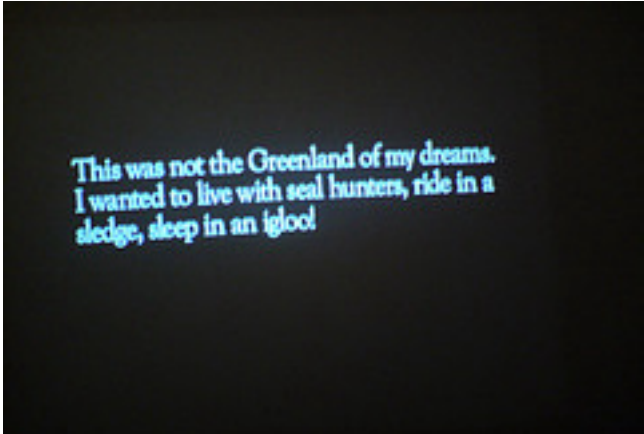
Once upon a time a little eight-year-old boy in Togo came across a book about Greenland, dreamt about Eskimos and polar bears and decided to run away there one day.

An African in Greenland is Tété-Michel Kpomassie's story: the fruit of a chance encounter with a picture book, the memoir of a ten year odyssey from humid jungles to frozen wastes and a naively sharp insight into European and Inuit culture. First published in

1981, it still resonates, free from not only ingrained prejudice but also a western world-view, an attitude (as well as a contradiction in terms) still insidious today.

TRACE met Tété at the opening for the exhibition An Artic Book Club which runs till the 24th of October at the EFA Project Space. Organised by Flux Factory, it showcases the responses of more than ten artists, writers and creators who discussed the book together over a period of several months, bringing to life and celebrating a remarkable story.

For more information: <http://www.efanyc.org/>



This was not the Greenland of my dreams.
I wanted to live with seal hunters, ride in a
sledge, sleep in an igloo

Amber Cortes, Retold Journeys, 2009