In the late 1950s, a West African boy reads a book about Greenland. He dreams to someday travel there. And he does. Then, in the late ‘70s, he writes a book about his unique ten-year journey from his native Togo to Greenland. The book goes on to win awards, including being one of The New York Times’ Notable Books of the year in 1983.

In 2009, a group of New York artists called the Arctic Book Club meet regularly for seven months to explore and discuss the book. They then are asked to create art in response, and this Thursday, September 17, the exhibition opens.

The man we are talking about is Tété Michel Kpomassie, and the book, An African in Greenland. And on September 23rd, the Arctic Book Club will welcome Tété Michel Kpomassie in a public dialogue about his reaction to their reaction arts exhibition.

You all still with me?

If you are as delighted and intrigued by this story as I am, here’s what we do. Let’s read the book and visit the exhibition before October 24th (when it closes). If you’re feeling really ambitious, maybe you will create your own Arctic Book Club Deux. Or maybe you will go to the discussion on Sept. 23rd and create your own reactionary song about Tété’s reaction to the exhibition that was in reaction to the book… or maybe not. Regardless, the opening is FREE and makes for great blind date material!