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Ulrike Crespo *Grönland (Greenland)*

Text by Freddy Langer
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Majestic landscapes, endless fjords, and eternal ice: Greenland – a piece of unspoiled nature

It is regarded as a place of longing: Greenland – the largest island in the world, named by the Viking Erik the Red – has always held a mysterious fascination. Famous for its breathtaking ice landscapes, its diverse arctic wildlife, and its long, fjord-lined coastal region, it stretches over several climate zones. Greenland is the perfect destination for adventurers.

The photographer Ulrike Crespo thus once again takes us on a journey and transports us to one of the least densely populated countries on earth, where, during the arctic summer, the sun does not set, even at night.

From the text by Freddy Langer:

»Anyone who flies over Greenland's cliffs in a helicopter or negotiates their way between the ice floes in a rubber dinghy no longer thinks of shipwrecks. They are more likely to succumb to the seductive power of the icy cold magnificence. And they no longer hear the ringing of small chunks of ice but rather believe they can discern a song like that of sirens. Ulli Crespo embarked on such trips – and felt drawn to delve ever deeper into the world of icebergs. Her images tell of a journey into a world that flirts light-heartedly with its secrets. And Ulli Crespo made no effort with her photographs to explore this world or to document this frozen landscape from a detached distance. Rather she interprets it as a charmed and charming fairy-tale world. So, it was only fitting that whales should surface like ambassadors handing over an invitation. The icebergs on the photographs by Ulli Crespo are eerily beautiful. A trace of mist hovers over some of them as if they were drawing

a veil across their faces. Others reflect the light of the sun giving the impression that they are glowing from within. They seem to be arranged to form a labyrinth into which Ulli Crespo feels drawn to venture ever further: a city of innumerable fortifications. Uninhabited. Uncanny. And undiscovered until now. And as with all remote abandoned places, a sense of eternity is also conveyed here«.

Ulrike Crespo was born in 1950 in Fulda, Germany. After completing high school in Darmstadt, in the 1970s Crespo studied French, Art History and Archaeology in Lausanne and Geneva, Switzerland. After returning to Germany in the 1980s, she studied Psychology in Frankfurt am Main and gained a licence to practice as a psychotherapist. Since the 1990s she has closely concerned herself with photography and published several books, among them *North Korea* (2019), *Danakil* (2018), *Iceland*, (2017), *Unter der Haut des Wassers* (2014), *Ephemere* (2012) und *Twilight* (2011).

Ulrike Crespo lived and worked in Frankfurt am Main, Vienna and West Cork, Ireland. She passed away in October 2019. www.ulrike-crespo-photography.com

Freddy Langer first saw the light of day in Frankfurt am Main, Germany in 1957. He went to school there, studied there, still lives in the city, and works for the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung newspaper. However, as senior editor of the travel section he has, for the past thirty years, visited all four corners of the earth.

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