

Some ideas of the Estonian polar art and  
architecture now and in the future

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POLAR READINGS 2021 Art exploration of the Arctic: Polar regions in  
culture, art and philosophy,

20 May 2021 Saint - Petersburg

# Estonian national epic KALEVIPOEG

A giant Kalev's son  
made the sailing trip to  
the end of the world  
(to the Arctic)

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Kristjan  
Raud  
1935

**The decoration of  
the sweet box**



# Logo of the Estonian Polar Club

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- The club operates by the Estonian Maritime museum
- It brings together Arctic and Antarctic researchers



# The most popular polar subjects in the art



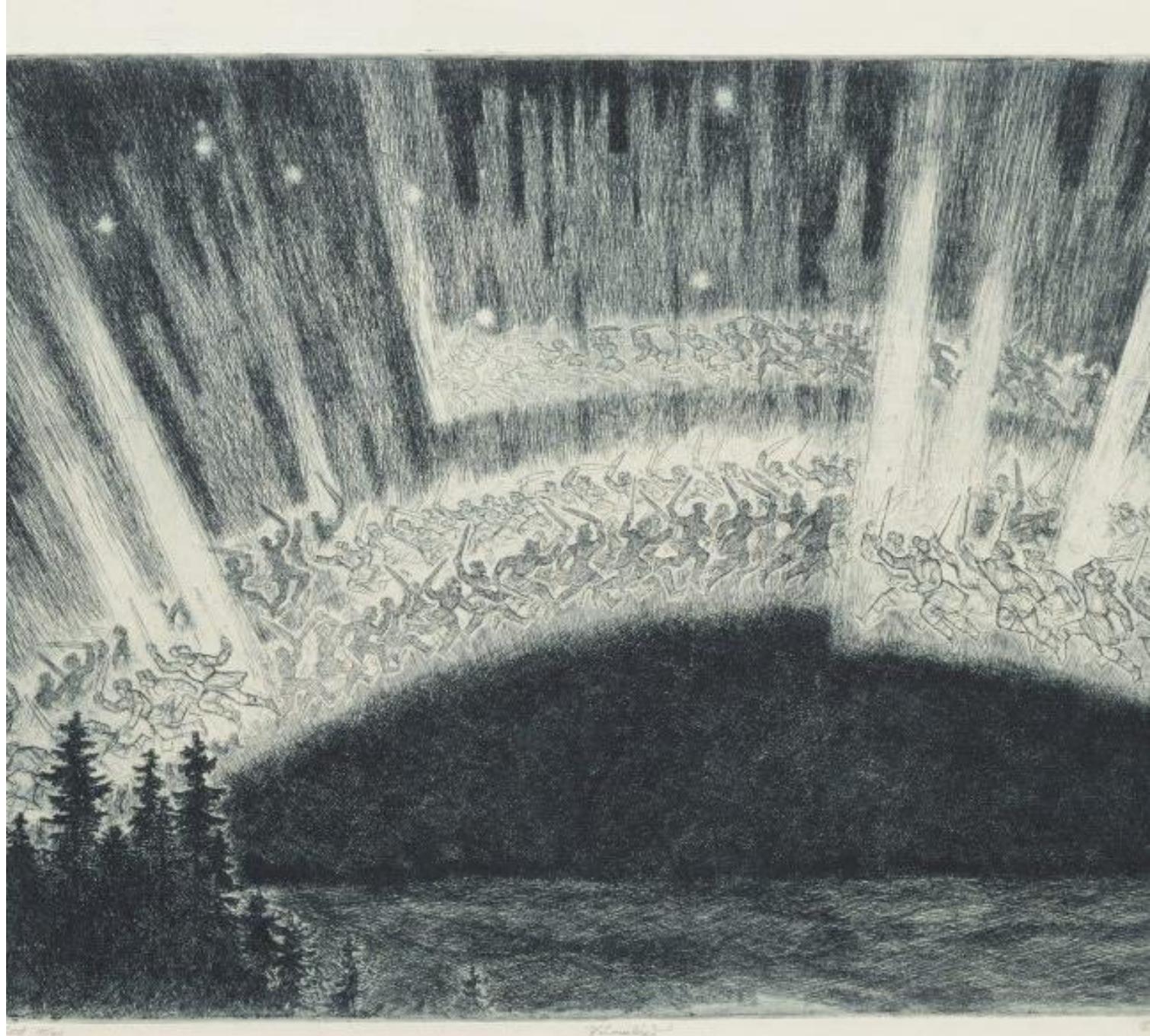
Sometimes there are Northern lights  
seen in Estonia, photo Mihkel Naukas



# Ott Kangilaski (1911-1975)

Northern lights, ofort, 1970

In folklore it was considered that  
Northern lights are fighting souls



# Kaljo Põllo (1934-2010)

- Was a legend in his lifetime
- Visual interpreter of the world-view of Finno-Ugric and Nordic peoples and their ancient myths
- Art lecturer and a leader of scientific expeditions

The Northern lights, 1973,  
mezzotint technique

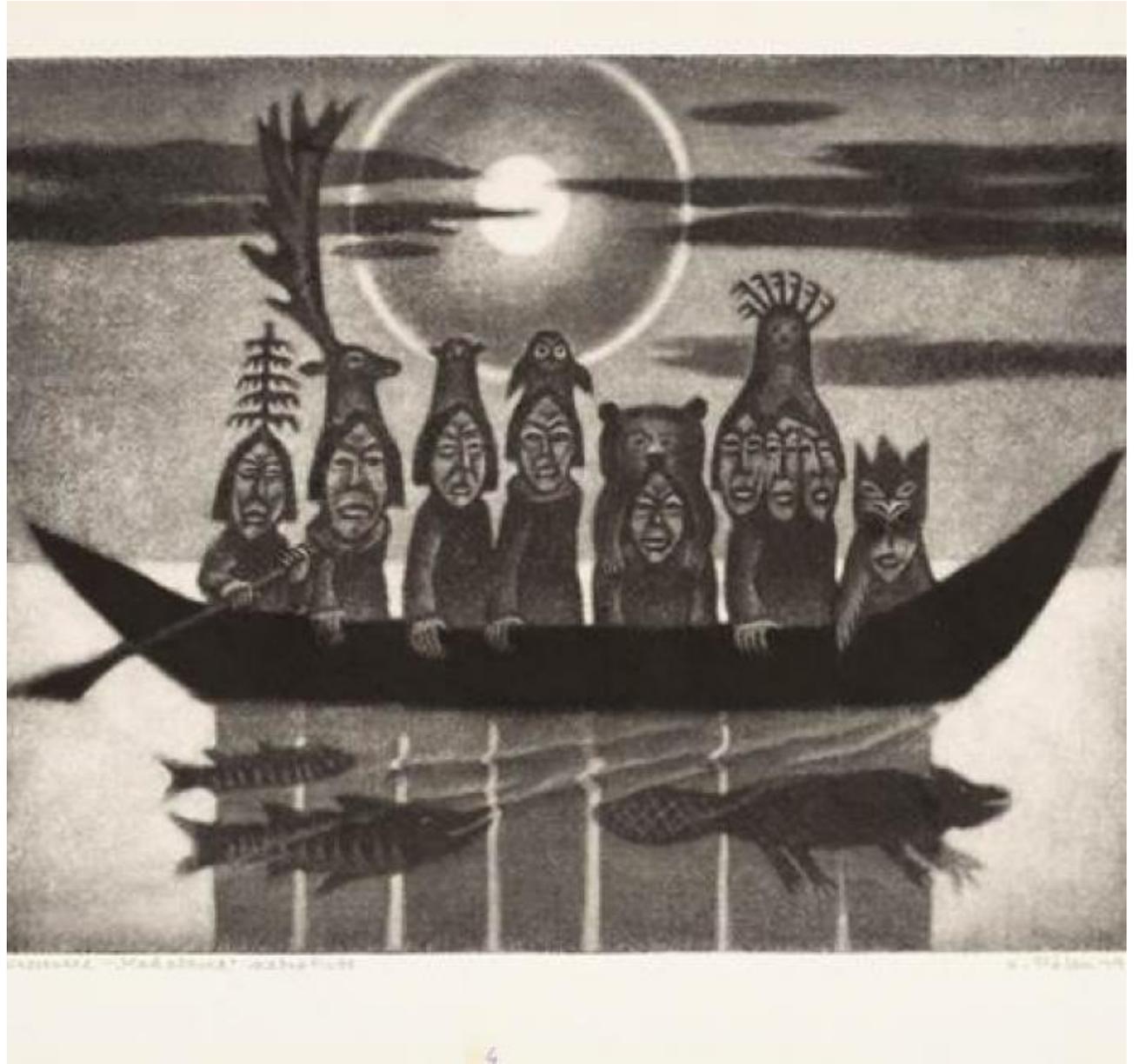


*Virmalised - "Kadalaud", mezzotinto*

*K. Põllo 1973*

A mythological  
ancient world:  
Kaljo Põllu  
Sun boat 1974

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# Lembit Karu

- The northern lights, rainbow of the moon and plantain, painting, 1981

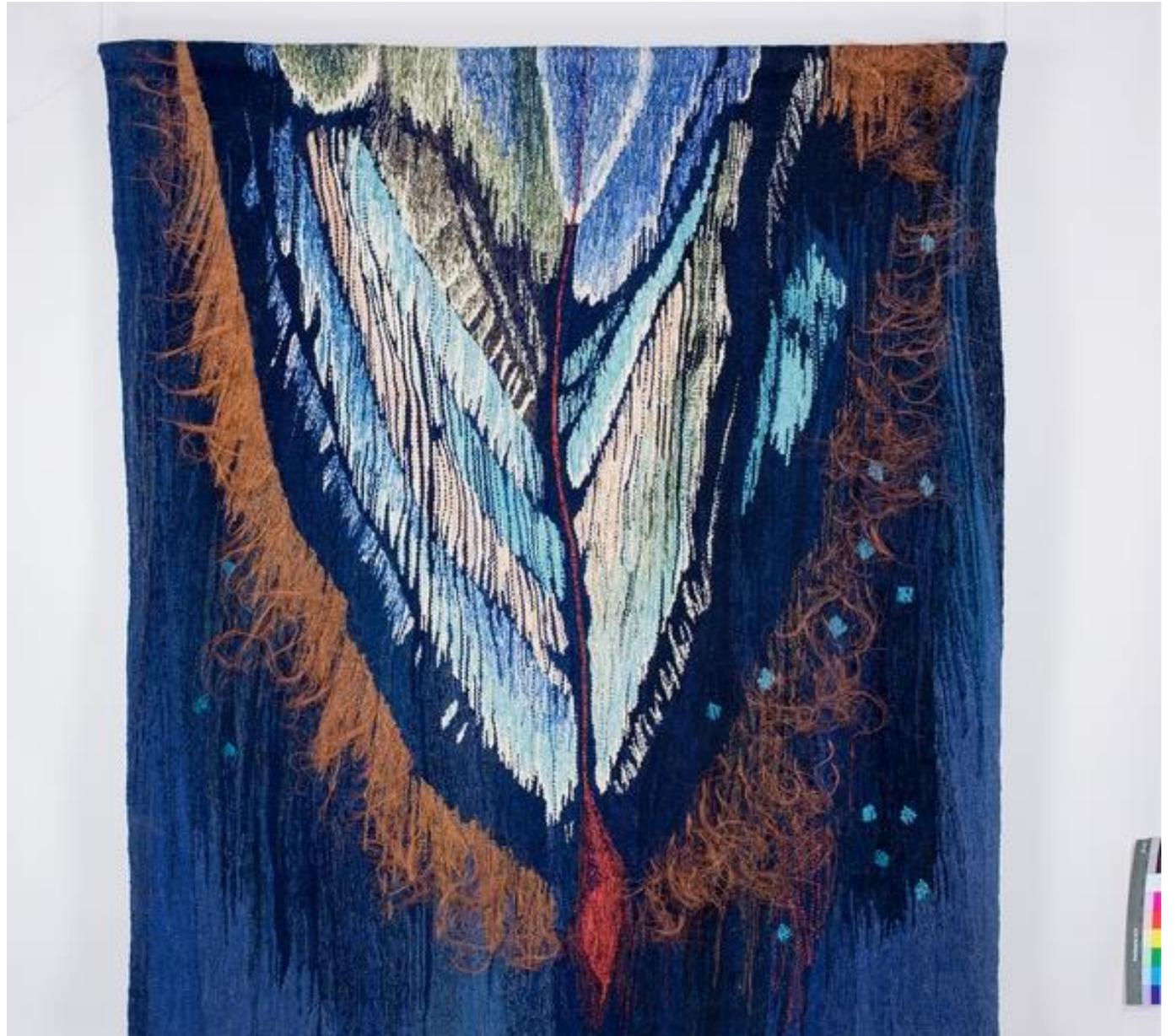


Hilja Kulles

Carpet

The Northern Lights

1983



For some reason the northern lights were also popular in Kalev confectionery



# The famous polar bear in Haapsalu

- Well-known seaside resort (Russian tsars, composer Pjotr Tsaikovski 1867)
- Why polar bear?
- made from wood by sculptor Roman Haavamäe in the 30-ies and anchored in the middle of the bay Tagalaht, close the beach promenade



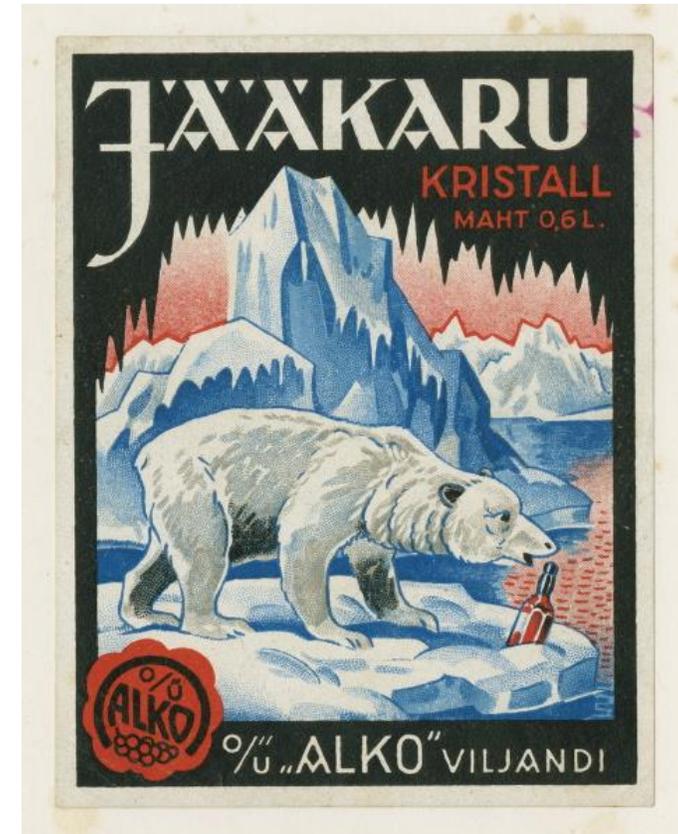
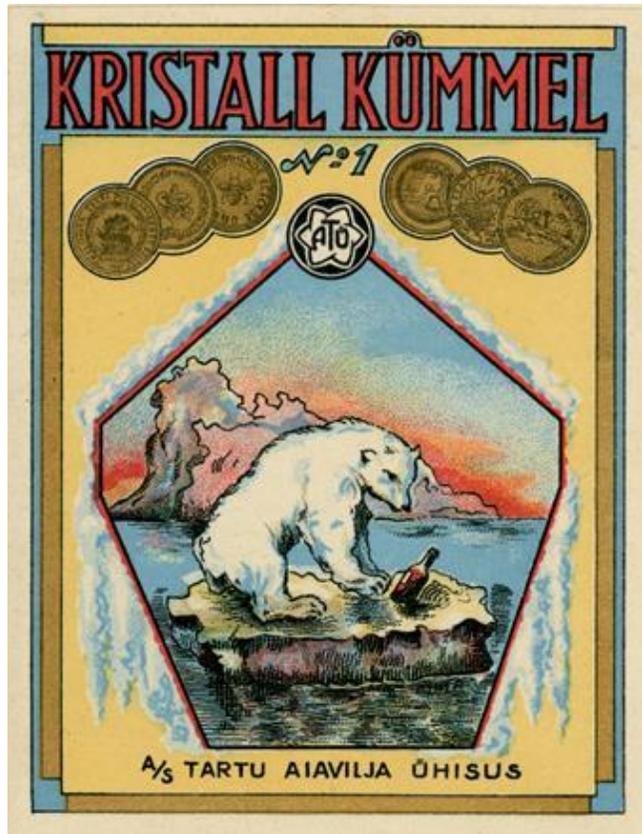
In 2010 during the restoration of the beach promenade a plastic copy was ordered



# The Polar bear in Tartu, Ole Ehelaid 1957



In the 1930-ies the graphic designers liked to use the images of polar bears on the bottles of liquers



Even the Baltic sprats were better sold with the images of polar bear

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The label  
of the  
insurance  
company

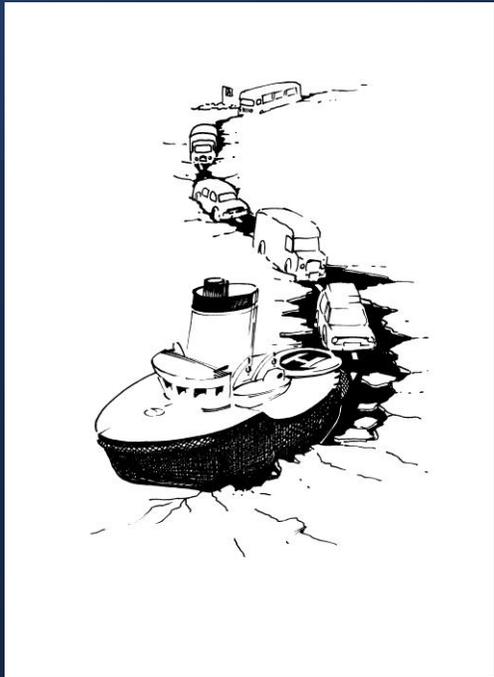
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Among the Arctic collections of the Estonian Maritime museum are historical polar ships.



# Polar caricatures by Roman Matkiewicz



THE COOLEST PLACES IN THE WORLD.



Installation named TOTEM was built for installation festival Warming Huts – **an art and architecture competition** on ice in Winnipeg, Canada (Estonian architecture office b210 – their project was selected)



# Arctic landscape design



- organised by National Geographic and National Park “Russian Arctic” to assess the current conservation state and long-term environmental changes
- changes require also architects to adapt to circumstances and possibilities there.

Architect Mari Hunt was invited to Northbrook island in 2014 to design the future tourist infrastructure at Cape Flora. Unfortunately because the land erosion the whole project was postponed.



# The polar research stations in the future ? Some versions made by students from the Art Academy



# Workshops with students and exhibitions about polar architecture



Last year we celebrated 200 years from the discovering of Antarctica.



Thank you !

