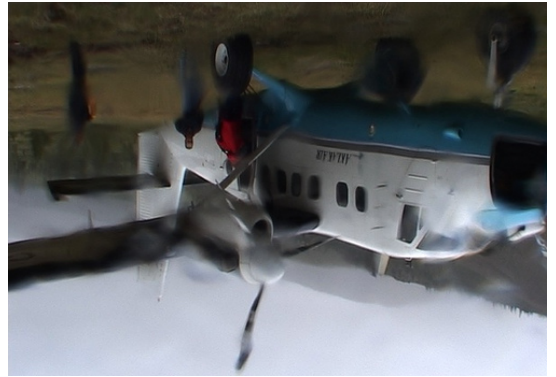


Pretty Close

I remember when I first came to London I would frequently lose my bearings and usually end up in the same place as if an invisible magnet pulled me always around on the same circuit.

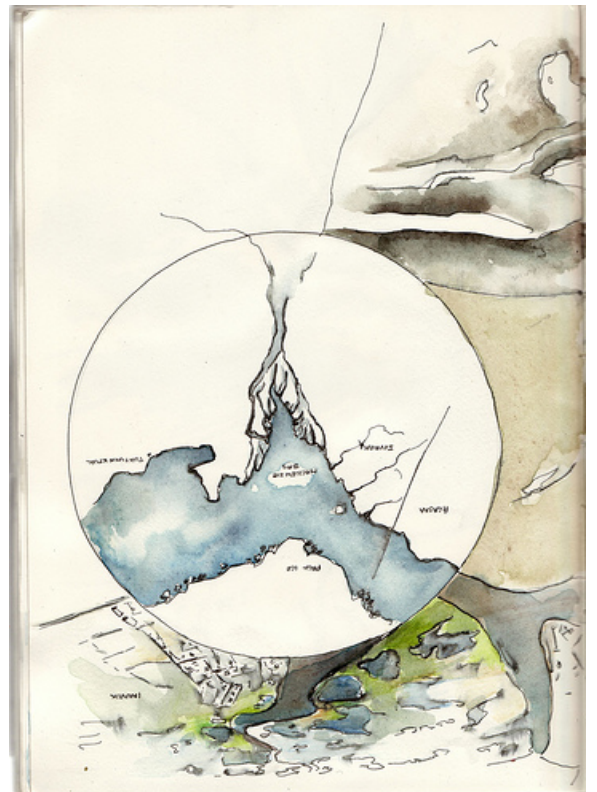


When people are lost in a whiteout they often walk around in a circle and double back on themselves, tracing and retracing their steps.

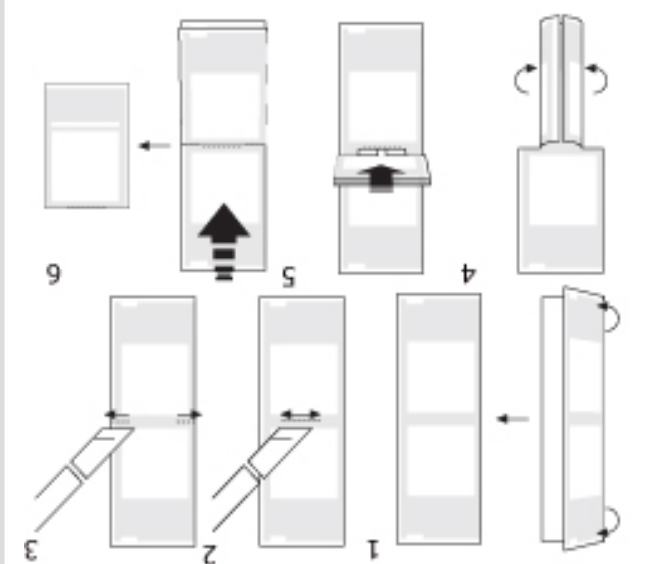


Diary 1 (Journey to Sheep Creek)

Alice Angus



Landmarks and Maps



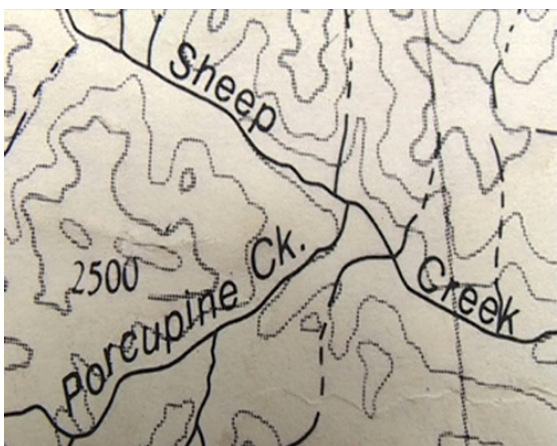
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Alice Angus
created on: Fri Oct 19 08:08:26 2007

Further information:
Ivavik;
http://www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/yt/ivavik/index_e.asp



Introduction
In the summer of 2003 I spent several weeks in the Northern Yukon, began a collaboration with Joyce Majiski (artist and guide) and participated



"I wouldn't describe this a wilderness because people live here, peoples' homes are here." Alan Fehr, Parks Canada.



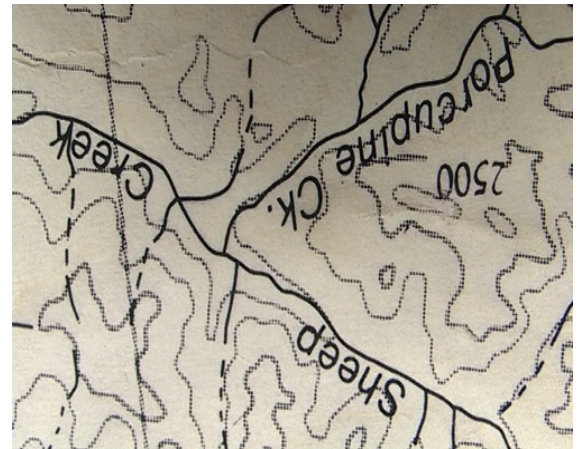
in a residency in Ivvavik National Park in the northwestern Arctic. This eBook is one of a series from the sketchbooks of that journey.

Pretty Close, Not Far and Quite Aways

Today Joyce (Majiski) and I met up with artists Ron Felix, Audrea Wulf and James Ruben, guide Mervyn Joe and elder Sarah Dillon; we loaded a twin otter that Parks Canada had chartered and flew out of Inuvik across the Mackenzie Delta, and onto the park warden camp at Sheep Creek in Ivvavik National Park.

Above the 13 thousand square kilometers of deep green lush land the sky arches high and wide, weather is visible from afar and the sun traces a 24 hour circle overhead, the sense of time passing... of the earth turning... is tangible. Flying low into Ivvavik we see an unglaciated land unfold in great detail around us. The pilot seems to navigate more by watching the lay of the land than with charts and technologies.

Everything to my foreign eye looks unique, so what are the landmarks? Later I ask Mervyn Joe, Park Warden to show me the route on a map.



Quite Aways

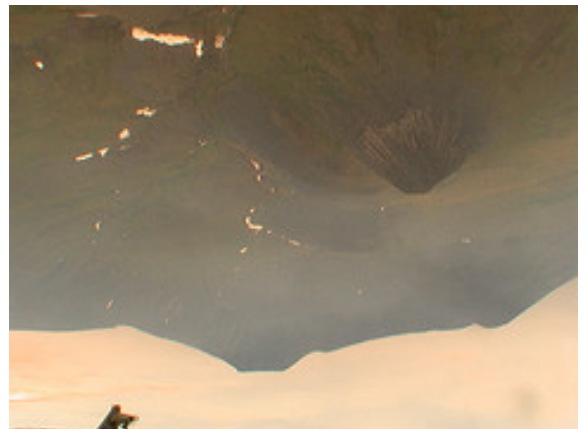
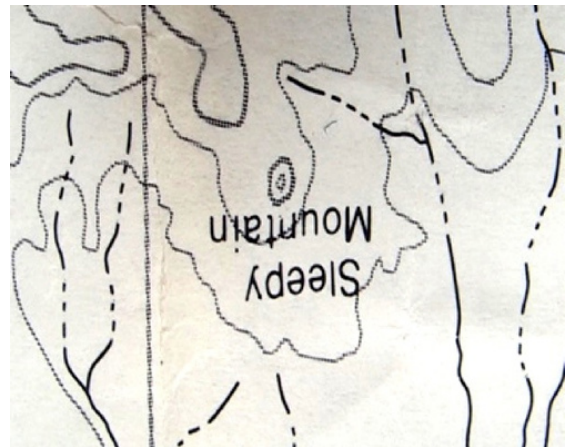
Before I left the UK I got a message that read: "Have good time miles from nowhere Alice!". What is, where is, miles from nowhere? How is a place thought to be miles from nowhere to be treated. Will I end up there... is it where I've just come from?



The vast tract of land that is Ivvavik was the first National Park in Canada to be created as a result of an historic land settlement. For people who grew up nearby it might be described as their backyard. Maybe not really so very different from someone whose urban neighborhood includes the places they work, play and inhabit.



Languages of navigation differ and we have to learn new ways of seeing before the details of a place will become visible.





Not Far

Eventually the unfamiliar becomes domestic, our maps of home extend and all the parts of a place we get to know join up. Landmarks change.

