

The orchestrated landscape

When I hike in the Greenlandic nature I am constantly reminded on the eternal natural process of change. On the one hand, the nature seems substantial and only small fluctuations are seen in the course of the year. On the other hand, all landscapes are characterized by destruction. Even the hardest rocks are broken down by frost and wear. A hard winter or a dry summer chances the small biotopes along my usually used tracks in the mountains.

The changes are imperceptible. They happen gradually, and often only the photography retains the changes at a known location. A rock is blasted by frost; a flower has disappeared, while others have been added. The constantly changes result in a kind of ruins in the landscape. The ruins are creating the basis for new, perhaps even more beautiful locations in the desolate landscapes of Greenland.

In my holidays I often visit my birthplace in Denmark. In contrast to Greenland, Denmark

is densely populated, and there is nothing left of the original nature. Only the cultural landscape exists here. The cultural landscape has to be cherished to maintain the many types of landscapes. In my home region I visit a large raised bog, Lille Vildmose, and many small localities such as Kongerslev Rectory Heath.

It is an eternal struggle to maintain these landscapes. The heath is overgrown with junipers and other trees. The local authorities are constantly trying to keep the nature as it once appeared. At the Kongerslev Rectory Heath the municipality often must remove the many bushes of junipers and sheep are put out to feed off the rest of the vegetation.

This year, the well-known heath on my birthplace is completely unrecognizable. Large machines have milled the bushes. For some considerable time ahead the wood chips will cover most of the ground until the grass and the heather again takes over. Left is the orchestrated landscape.



Kongerslev Rectory Heath, December 2012