

The crawling shrub

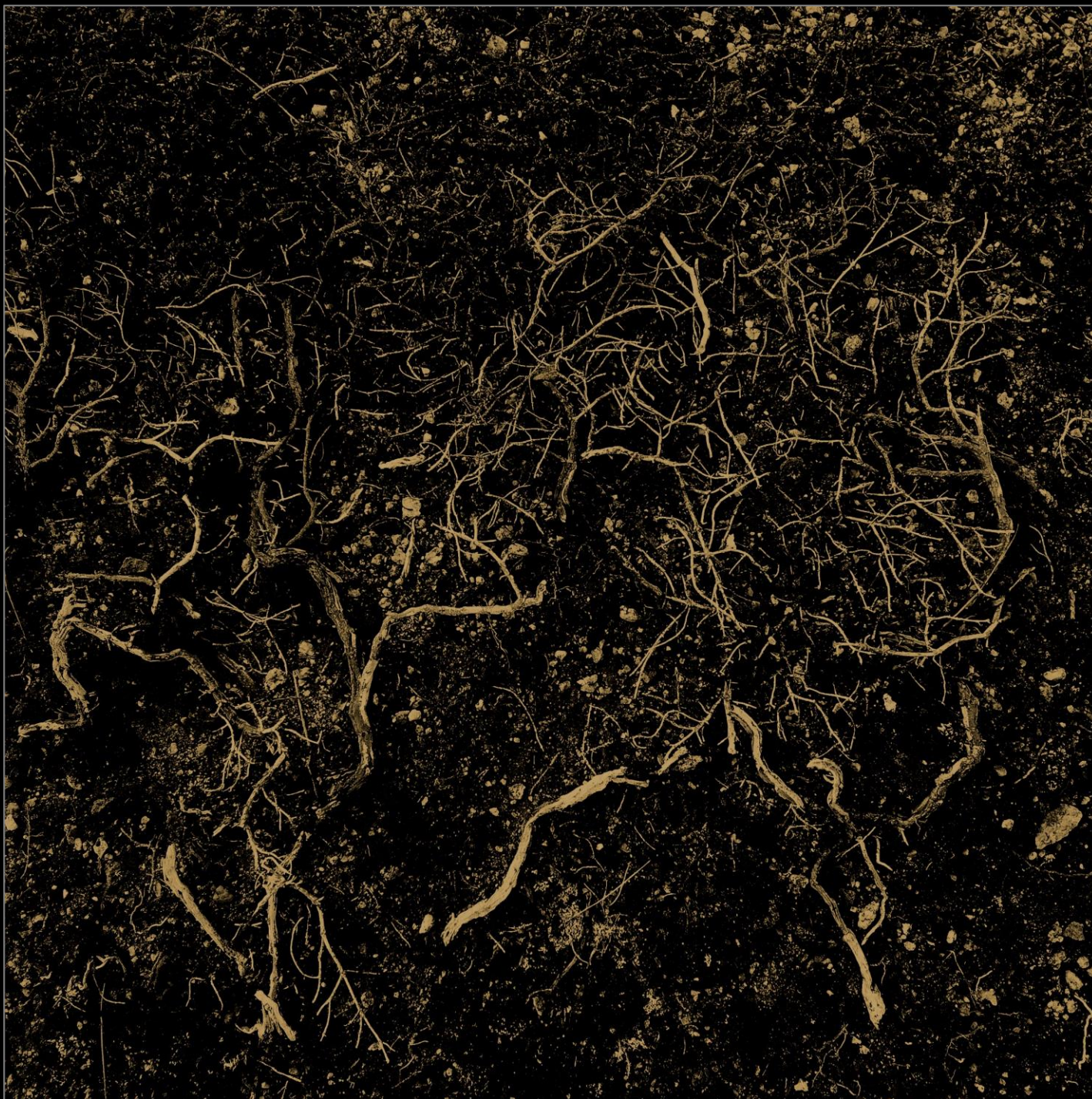
Greenland is so big and overwhelming: The world's largest island, the world's largest ice sheet, huge landscapes of deserted lands, often not tread on by a human foot.

And then I find it fascinating to find the insignificantly detail in all this enormous.

The common juniper, *Juniperus communis*, is a wonder of creation. It is the first woody plant to move in when the Greenland Ice Sheet recedes.

The common juniper has followed me all my life; from the moor in Jutland and now in South Greenland. In South Greenland, the conditions had to be extraordinary good, if the shrub shall grow bigger. Most juniper shrubs end like a crawling shrub, because the climate, including storms and hard frost, is too difficult for the otherwise robust plant.

This day in May, I have been hunting for the beautiful wild patterns that the dead branches can create on the bare rocks. The rugged remains of a juniper bush here in South Greenland are, in turn, as beautiful as the highest mountains and the deepest valleys.



Nearby Qaqortoq,
South Greenland,
May 2017