

The Dog with a Bun

Greenlandic fairy tales and legends in Martin Velišek's illustrations

An exhibition of Martin Velišek's illustrations for the Czech edition of Greenlandic fairy tales and legends in the Argo publishing house under the title **The Dog with a Bun**. The basis of the book translated by Zdeněk Lyčka from Danish and English taking into account the Greenlandic original are *Myths and legends from Greenland* by the polar explorer, traveler and writer Knud Rasmussen (1879–1933), the selection of which was published by Danish writer Jørn Riel (1931), who lived sixteen years in Greenland. In 2016, some of these stories were retold for children and young people by Danish journalist Gunvor Bjerre (1942) in the book *The Moon Man and Other Stories from Greenland*. The author supplemented her book with retold fairy tales and legends by other Greenlandic writers. The Czech edition also includes the first book published in the eastern dialect of Greenlandic, *Fairy Tales from East Greenland* (1994). Its author is the Inuit writer Elisa Maqe (1916–2007) from the Kuummiut settlement, which was founded by her father and at the same time the well-known Greenlandic artist Kaarali Andreassen, one of the first Christians on the east coast of Greenland. Elisa's grandfather Mitsivarnianga was a renowned hunter and shaman. The Czech selection did not include identical or similar versions of legends that had been published in Czechia before, namely in the Czech version of Rasmussen's books *Myths and Legends from Greenland* (1996, 2007) and *New People* (2018), in the book *Igimarassuk, who ate his women* (2016) by Áron Kangermio and in the book *Soul, beautify thyself* (2018) by Ole Jørgensen. The exceptions are the stories about Kaassassuk, the Moon Man and the Mother of the Sea, which have already been published in Czech in several versions, but not in a simplified form for children and young people.



Martin Velišek (1963) is a graduate of Professor Libenský's glass studio at the University of Applied Arts in Prague. He deals with illustration, poster, animation and free art creation. He is the key painter of the alternative band Už jsme doma and the author of the unique art decoration of the well-known Prague pub U vystřelenýho oka. He received the prize of the



Czech Ministry of Culture for the most beautiful book of the year 1997. He collaborated on the films *Fimfárum* by Jan Werich, *Fimfárum 2* and *Lajka*, for which he was awarded the Czech Lions for the best creative solutions and the best creative achievements. He exhibited in Slovakia, Poland, Germany, Austria, Finland, Sweden, Denmark (including Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Norway (including Svalbard), France, Spain, USA, Australia and many other places all over the world. He illustrated, among others, Božena Němcová's *Grandmother*, George Orwell's *Animal Farm* and Knud Rasmussen's *Myths and Legends from Greenland*. His last complete work are the illustrations for the Czech edition of the Greenlandic fairy tales and legends, *The Dog with a Bun*, on which this exhibition is based.