TAUTTUQ

Bringing together images from Katherine Takpannie's *Amiat* series (2015–ongoing) with new poetry by Taqralik Partridge, *Tauttuq*—meaning "the colour of" or "the appearance of" in the Nunavik dialect—aims to capture and hold that which is mutable and changing through photography, colour and language.

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by Katherine Takpannie and Taqralik Partridge

the smell of red is
auk
tinguk
ukiatsaaq
the taste of green is
maliksuagaq
kuanniq
qungulik
the texture of purple is
aqiaruq
paunnaq
qauppaluttuq
the sound of turquoise is
sikutuqait
ingiuliit
natiruvaattuq
the temperature of pink is
kutsuq
uqsuq
uluangitjaq

if you are a legend amongst your people
they will bear your emblem
in their pockets
on their tongues
in their hearts

if you are a legend amongst your people
you are never lost in the crowd
never forgotten in the landscape

if you are a legend amongst your people
in their eyes you are always
dressed in brilliant colours
if you are low
to the ground they uplift you

your light is their beacon
even when you cannot see it

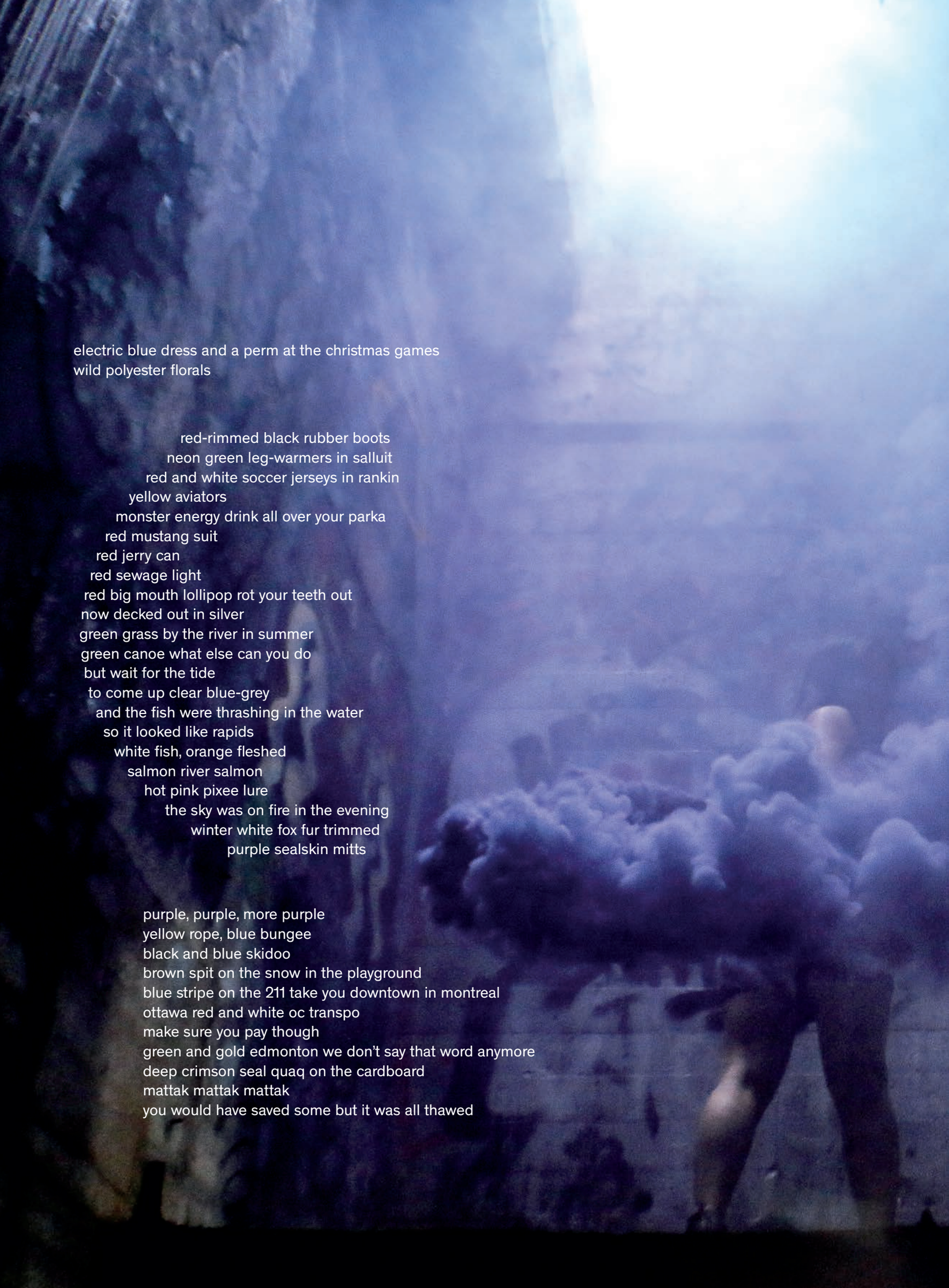
they see it
they see you
they tell you

you are here
we are with you

in culture class
there was a big bag
of beads of all
shades, so
we had to dig to find our colours

to this day i swear
if i have a pile of gold
or vermilion or any other
colour just sitting there, i feel

an embarassment of riches



electric blue dress and a perm at the christmas games
wild polyester florals

red-rimmed black rubber boots
neon green leg-warmers in salluit
red and white soccer jerseys in rankin
yellow aviators
monster energy drink all over your parka
red mustang suit
red jerry can
red sewage light
red big mouth lollipop rot your teeth out
now decked out in silver
green grass by the river in summer
green canoe what else can you do
but wait for the tide
to come up clear blue-grey
and the fish were thrashing in the water
so it looked like rapids
white fish, orange fleshed
salmon river salmon
hot pink pixee lure
the sky was on fire in the evening
winter white fox fur trimmed
purple sealskin mitts

purple, purple, more purple
yellow rope, blue bungee
black and blue skidoo
brown spit on the snow in the playground
blue stripe on the 211 take you downtown in montreal
ottawa red and white oc transpo
make sure you pay though
green and gold edmonton we don't say that word anymore
deep crimson seal quaq on the cardboard
mattak mattak mattak
you would have saved some but it was all thawed

—

***Katherine Takpannie** is an urban Inuk whose family is originally from Apex Hill, NU. However she was born in Montreal, QC. Takpannie is a self-taught, emerging photographer who wants to reveal the complexities and nuances of urban Inuit life. Having lived most of her life in Ottawa, ON, her work speaks to the Ottawa that she sees. Her visual language expands out from lifestyle portraiture to include lush landscapes and gritty urban scenes.*

***Taqralik Partridge** is a writer, artist and curator originally from Kuujjuaq, Nunavik, QC, and now based in Ottawa, ON. Partridge's artistic work focuses on and celebrates life in the North and in southern urban centres, as well as the lived experiences of Inuit. In 2020 her collection of poetry* curved against the hull of a peterhead *was released by Publication Studio Guelph. A former Editor-at-Large for the* Inuit Art Quarterly *and former Director of the Nordic Lab at SAW, she is the Associate Curator of Indigenous Art – Inuit Art Focus at the Art Gallery of Ontario.*

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Katherine Takpannie

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Aupajaaqtuq #2 (detail)
2020
Digital photograph
ALL © THE ARTIST

Tungujuangajuq #6
2017
Digital photograph

Tungujuqtuq #2
2020
Digital photograph

Ittiujaq #5
2017
Digital photograph