

### **Image 3: : Audio Description Transcript**

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**From the series Chukotka**

(2018, 50 x 70cm)

This colour, landscape format photograph is in muted brown tones with pearly highlights. The colours and the crisp details evoke sepia photographs or natural history engravings. The image is framed by human structures and objects, but at its centre is a portrait of a wild animal who appears within touching distance.

The photograph is taken from inside a wooden hut. A narrow door made of planks is open towards us, the doorway making up the central third of the image. From outside, misty light falls onto a worn wooden threshold, gleaming with damp, and spreads towards us over the muddy earthen floor. Entirely filling the bottom half of the doorway is a walrus, facing to the left as if just passing the hut, but with the head slightly inclined towards us. Beyond, in a somewhat blurry mass, are the heads and backs, tusks and flippers of many more walruses.

The walrus in the doorway is in very sharp focus. Two long tusks curve down from the snout and inwards, pointing toward the animal's chest. The tip of the blunt snout is covered in stiff bristles, golden where they catch the light, each one distinct. The walrus looks to the left. The eye on the side of the head nearest to us gleams, deepset in folds of thick skin. A protruding brow runs across the forehead just above the eyes. Above the brow, the head slopes back to join to the neck and shoulders. Only the head and first third of the walrus's body are visible - a triangular form, soft

brown, deeply wrinkled and covered in thin fur - and one rubbery flipper. The rest of the body is unseen, hidden behind the doorframe.

To left and right of the open doorway, the hut is in deep shadow. Hanging down from a metal loop attached to the door itself is a leather strap, presumably to close it from outside. To the right of the doorway, a few items catch the daylight: on a small wooden table, a glass jar containing cigarette ends and a small spanner, and hanging alongside, a pair of black binoculars. A metal jerrycan to hold fuel stands on the floor. It's grubby, battered and hand-labelled with some letters in Cyrillic, perhaps T-I-N-E-O? At floor level, there seems little distinction between inside and outside, with prints of boots in the mud inside the hut, while on the other side of the threshold, the walrus's flipper presses against the same brown earth.

Enurmino is one of the most northern villages in Chukotka, a region in the far east of Russia. It is located on the shore of the Chukchi Sea. Partly because of this isolation, the native Chukchi community have retained their traditions and continue to live off the land and sea. The houses in the village were built by Soviet people in 1950s. The Chukchi community relies on the hunt. Walrus and whale meat are the main components of their diet. Hunters use traditional harpoons as well as modern guns. There is an annual international quota, enough to sustain the community for the long winter. Climate change however, particularly receding sea ice, is posing a greater threat to the animals' survival.

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