Ellie Ga

North Was Here

After a 2006 residency at the Explorers Club in New York, artist and writer Ellie Ga became the sole artist-in-residence aboard the Tara—a research vessel lodged in the ice of the Arctic Ocean, and the second boat in history built to drift indefinitely in pack ice, where it collected scientific data on Arctic ice conditions. From this extraordinary adventure arose Ga’s acclaimed performance lecture “The Fortunetellers,” which she has delivered at the Kitchen, the Guggenheim Museum and the New Museum, among other venues.

North Was Here is a book of four short projects related to Ga’s polar residency. It includes three arctic booklets made during the continuous polar night as the boat was drifting, as well as a new piece that juxtaposes Polaroids and documentary footage that the artist used for a related video piece, “At the Beginning North Was Here.”

Ellie Ga (b. 1976) is a New York-born, Stockholm-based artist, who has exhibited and performed internationally at the New Museum, The Kitchen and the Guggenheim Museum in New York, and in Paris at Fondation Cartier pour L’Art Contemporain, among many others. Her work is in the public collections of The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum; the Albright-Knox Museum; FRAC Franche-Comté; Fondation Galeries Lafayette; Hannebauer Collection, and the Hessel Museum of Art. Ga is the author of Square, Octagon, Circle released this Fall by Siglio Press.