



## **Inuit Throat Singing**

*Culture within Singing*

### **TANYA TAGAQ:**

It's a successful show it will be a show where I don't remember anything I did or I'm thinking about the next sounds cos. I guess I'm just eternally chasing this state that I was talking before about animals and how they live. I think that us humans and our silly way of living, we only very rarely get to experience this time where we're in our bodies like I feel sometimes when painting, when I was giving birth, having an orgasm, you know like these things when you're completely in your body, I think that's when your mind is the freest and you can free yourself of your thoughts and um yeah that's what I'm chasing and I think with the singing that's what I'm chasing too, this moment where you forget what these stupid things we worry about all the time.

I grew up in a really small town in the north of Canada. We're 300 miles from the magnetic North Pole you get used to the fluctuations of the 24 hour darkness and the 24 hour light. I find it just the years, turn in, it's just one long day, right? And it changes your metabolism, it changes your skin and the cold, I really miss the cold.

My culture and the land is carried forever around in my heart, you know, like I wake up and the first thing I think about every morning is being in that vast madness, you know this crazy darkness and the snow and I think about that every day. That's what's coming out in the singing, yeah.

The town I'm from is in a really strange fluctuation, like my mother, literally grew up in an igloo, like she didn't walk into a house until she was 12 years old and now she has this university degree from McGill in Montreal – very strong quick change in the culture and I think that's part of what my singing represents is (that). When I was growing up in my part of the town, no one ever did it and now, you know, all the kids are starting to do it again just because it had to be changed I think, or else it was going to be lost, in my town anyway,

When you're from a culture where it's so cold and like in the past, you'd just be fighting off death all the time because it was so cold and you need a strong partner, you don't need some little thing that goes shopping and has long nails, it's a different idea of femininity.

the women were so crucial like you, you'd die because they made all your clothing, these ladies, they can sew like waterproof. They can make things waterproof with their fine fine stitching and stuff like this right, so they'd make the whole tent and they'd make all the clothing and the men would risk their lives to go out in the cold and hunt so I think that women just had more time to be alone together

We used to joke around and call it "uterus singing" because only women do it right? And it was just very strange because I did a tour with a Tuvan throat singer, and in Tuva only the men do it so I don't know if that has anything to do with anything but I think that like ugly things can be beautiful to me and I think that these noises can be very feminine to me even though they're sounding very strange to other people.