

## Shining light

AROUND THE TIME the TRC reported in 2015, Paul Seesequasis had an important conversation with his mother, a residential school survivor. She told him that, while there were difficult times for Indigenous people throughout those years, “there was also a strength within the families and a connectedness,” he recounts. The remark sparked Seesequasis’s curiosity; he began to search for archival images from Indigenous communities depicting that resilience in everyday life. When he posted them on social media, he found a huge response from users who knew the often unnamed people in the images and chimed in to tell their stories. His new book, *Blanket Toss Under Midnight Sun*, curates some of these images from the ’50s, ’60s and ’70s and reframes the Indigenous experience in eight communities. This grainy photo, an enlargement of a 35 mm colour slide taken in 1960 in Cape Dorset, Nunavut, is of celebrated Inuit artist Kenojuak Ashevak leaving her home and studio with one of her sons in her hood. The hamlet was home to a community of Inuit artists and Ashevak, who died in 2018 at age 85, was an emerging star when this photograph was taken. Here, wrote Seesequasis, “she is light emerging into the day.”

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