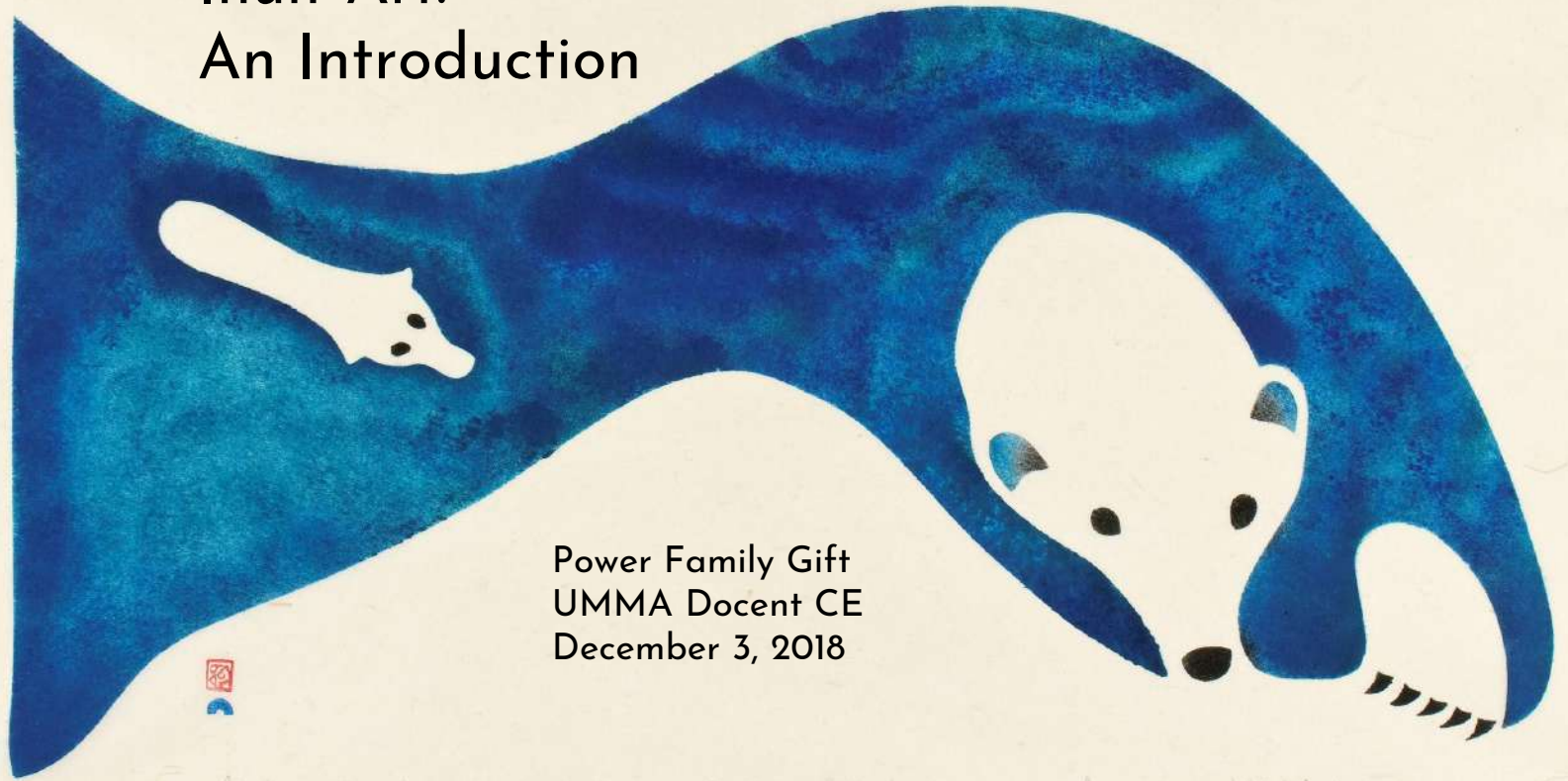


Inuit Art: An Introduction



Power Family Gift
UMMA Docent CE
December 3, 2018

Nivikilik and his son Nivikilik 2005 Cape Dorset, Baffin Island June 05 Nivikilik



UMMA Inuit Exhibition

Who: Co-Curated by Marion (Mame) Jackson and Pat Feheley.

What: Gift of Inuit Art from Phil and Kathy Power.
Programming including music, art making, storytelling

When: Phase 1 = March 16 - October 6 2019

Where: Second floor balcony (current Photography)

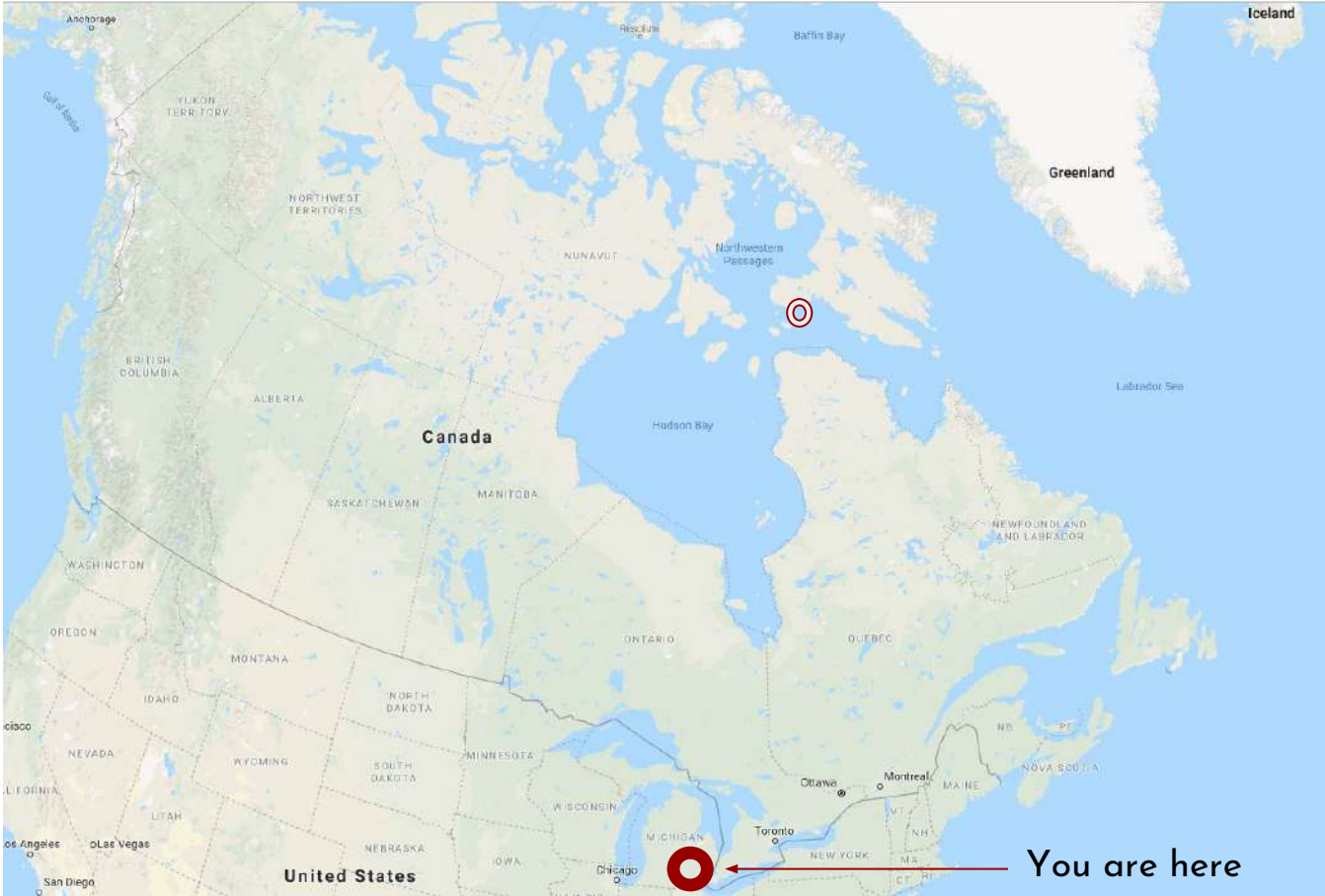


Geography:

Nunavut

Baffin Island

Cape Dorset



Glossary

Inuit: people (in Inuktitut)

Inuk: person

Inuktitut: Inuit native language

Eskimo: historic Canadian word for Inuit

Ulu: mezzaluna tool used by females to scrape skins

Umiak: boat

Kayak: small boat

Kamiks: boots

Sinew: connective tissue used as thread

Igloo: house

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Prehistoric Period (BCE - 1770)

Key Concepts:

- Migration and exchange between Greenland and Alaska.
- Economy driven by hunting and trade

Style:

- Graphic incision. Dot patterns, geometric schematized figures, symbolic vocabulary.

Form:

- Small scale ivory pendants, figures, dolls, amulets, harpoon covers.

Content:

- Animals and human figures



Images: Canadian Museum of Civilization

Historic Period (1770-1940s)



Key Concepts:

- European contact brought different technology (metal)
- Function changed from traditional toy or tool to a trade commodity: new audience

Style:

- Naturalistic, detailed.

Form:

- Now freestanding or on base: "tabletop" display

Content:

- Camp scenes, animals, Christian imagery.



Peter Pitseolak (1902-1973)
The Eskimo Will Talk Like the White Man, 1940-1942
Watercolour and collage on paper, 78.0x68.5
Canadian Museum of Civilization

Beginning of Contemporary (1940s-1950s)

Key Concepts:

- Historical Context: Distant Early Warning Line / Cold War
- Continued production for Southern market
- Formation of artist co-operative

Style:

- Naturalistic, smooth finish, prints were linear and textural

Form:

- Larger scale, soapstone

Content:

- Animals, hunting, daily life



“Discovery” of Inuit Art

James Houston

- Summer 1948: traded his paintings for carvings
- Returned to Quebec and made a deal with Hudson’s Bay Company to exchange art for store credit

Terry Ryan

- Advisor at West Baffin Eskimo Co-Op for about 50 years
- [Video about Kinngait West Baffin Eskimo Co-Operative](#)





Japanese Influence

- Houston traveled to Japan in 1958 to study ukiyo-e tradition of printmaking (translating drawings into prints)
- Un-ichi Hiratsuka was his teacher
- Chops are the personal stamp / signature
- “Indigenous modernism” aesthetic popular in the 1950s
- Printmaking Processes: stonecut, stencil, serigraph, etching / engraving, lithograph

Eskimo Art, Inc.

Non-profit
organization founded
by Eugene Power 1953

Philip & Kathy Power

Dennos Museum
(Traverse City)
donation: 1995

[UMMA Announcement](#)

[Michigan Radio
Interview: Phil Power](#)





Enchanted Owl, Kenojuak Ashevak



Themes

Animals

Daily Life

Supernatural

Myths &
legends

Family
Mother &
child

Landscapes



Daily Life: hunting and moving to summer camps



Sedna the Sea Goddess

Kiviuk the transforming trickster

Lumaaq the blind boy

[Taqralik Partridge's Stories](#)



Family: Mother and Child

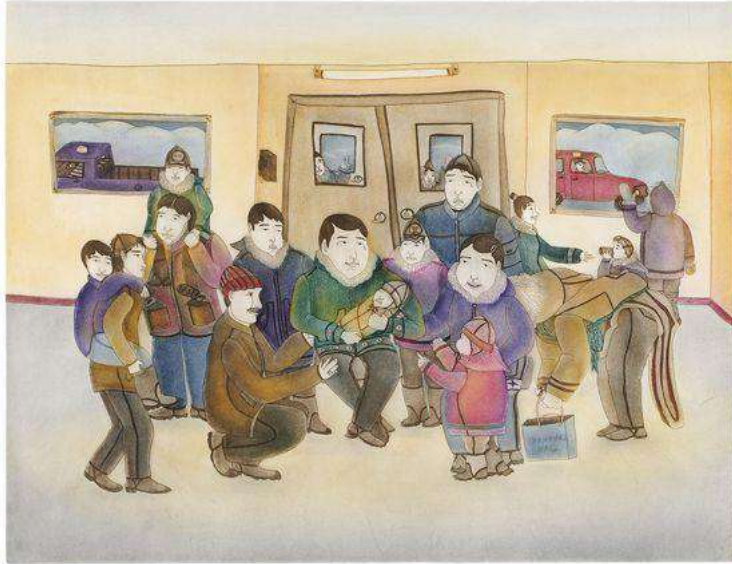


Peter Pitseolak
Drawing for print *My Wife and I* (1974)
Felt-tip pen, graphite, acrylic



Peter Pitseolak
My Wife and I (1974)
Printed by Sagiatak Sagiatak
Stonecut

Contemporary Artists



Annie Pootoogook



Pitseolak Ooshootsiak

Peter Pitseolak
Pudlo Pudlat
Kenojuak Ashevak
Pitaloosie Saila
Luke Anguhadluq
Jessie Oonark



Tim Pitsiulak



The Dennos Museum
Traverse City, MI



© www.SednaEpic.com - Jill Heinerth

Sedna Expedition

The Sedna Epic is comprised of a team of women ocean explorers, scientists, artists, educators, adventurers, and medical and scuba diving professionals from Canada, the USA and Mexico. Sedna's sea women aim to create citizen scientists in Nunavut, empowering youth, girls and young women to become the next generation of Inuit leaders to tackle climate change, ocean change and societal change in the Arctic.

Touring



Galleries and Museums

Dorset Fine Arts: <http://www.dorsetfinearts.com/>

Pat Feheley Gallery: <https://feheleyfinearts.com/>

Inuit Art Center at Winnipeg Art Gallery: <http://inuit.wag.ca/>

Dennos Museum: <http://www.dennosmuseum.org/>

Art Gallery of Ontario: <https://ago.ca/>

Resources

Canada's History: <https://www.canadashistory.ca/explore/politics-law/the-creation-of-nunavut>

Blodgett, Jean. *In Cape Dorset We Do It This Way: Three Decades of Inuit Printmaking*. 1991: McMichael Canadian Art Collection

Hessel, Ingo. *Inuit Art*. 1998: Douglas and McIntyre.

Jackson, Marion. *Inuit Women Artist: Voices from Cape Dorset*. 1994

Verano, Norman. *Inuit Prints: Japanese Inspiration. Early Printmaking in the Canadian Arctic*. 2011: Canadian Museum of Civilization Corporation.

The Threads that Connect Us: Washi Makers Meet Cape Dorset Artists (2003/2010): film about Osaki family who visited Cape Dorset to teach papermaking (washi = Japanese paper)

Connected North: <http://www.connectednorth.org/en/>