

Dorset Fine Arts: The artists featured on this page live and work Established in 1959, West Baffin Eskimo Cooperative has enjoyed 60 years of an international reputation for the exquisite prints, drawings and carvings created by its Inuit artist members. The Kinngait Studios and cooperative at the Kenojuak Cultural Centre in Kinngait maintains a Toronto-based location called Dorset Fine Arts, which is responsible for interfacing with global galleries, museums, arts professionals, and Inuit art enthusiasts.



KINNGAIT
64.2317° N 76.5403° W

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MATTHEW FLAHERTY (born. 1998-)



Matthew Flaherty was born on February 13, 1998, in Iqaluit, Flaherty is a self-taught artist who learned through observing elders carving. Flaherty completed his first carving was at age 7, which was a walking bear. His favourite subjects to carve are polar bears and wolves. In terms of drawing, we began at 8 years old and mainly focusing on animals, landscapes and hunting scenes.

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SAIMAIYU AKESUK (born. 1988-)



Saimaiyu Akesuk was in Iqaluit to Lau Akesuk and Olayuk Akesuk, two of the first Members of the Legislative Assembly in Nunavut. Inspired by artist and peer Ningiukulu Teevee during courses attended at the Nunavut Teaching Education Program, Akesuk continues to draw confident and whimsical images of wildlife, especially birds and bears. Known for contemporary bold colours and dynamic simplicity of lines, Akesuk combines with a soft tenderness with joyful expression. Akesuk is considered a rising star of the Cape Dorset artist community.

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QAVAVAU MANUMIE (born. 1958-)



Born in Brandon, Manitoba Manumie returned to Cape Dorset after his mother was hospitalized for tuberculosis. Manumie demonstrates a range of stylistic abilities, working in printing making in both lithography and stonecut. In both forms, Manumie works in both storytelling, depicting literal scenes he's encountered, and in abstraction expressive ideas, feelings and possibilities within his works. Manumie is known for his idiosyncratic and often amusing in his depictions of Inuit legends and mythology, Arctic wildlife and contemporary aspects of Inuit life. An accomplished and precise printmaker who enjoys teaching and demonstrating his mastery over

printmaking techniques to young artists and visitors. Notably, Manumie is among the second generation to attract critical acclaim from the wider contemporary arts world. He lives with his wife and son in Cape Dorset.

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TIM PITSIULAK (1967- 2016)



Born in Kimmirut (Lake Harbour) to parents Napachie and Timila Pitsiulak, Pitsiulak started drawing as a child, taking up carving and jewellery-making as an adult. The land and its wildlife are the primary influence of Tim's realist drawing style.

As a hunter, Pitsiulak has great respect for the natural world, which is fundamental to his artistic sensibility. Particularly inspired by the Arctic Ocean, he was drawn to the unknowable creatures of the sea; whales, narwals, beluga and the especially the bowhead, describing it as a majestic and

mysterious creature. Pitsiulak frequently embellished his drawings of animals with 'tattoos' of ancient artifacts. Pitsiulak continues to attract an avid following for his large naturalist drawings of Arctic wildlife.

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Isaac Oqutaq (born. 1957-)



Oqutaq is a carver from Kinngait (Cape Dorset), NU. Sharing this skill with both his father, Innuki Oqutaq, and uncle Osuitok Ipeelee, who is a celebrated sculptor. Known for his fluid forms of sea life especially whales, his sculptures recall the agility and dynamism of these enormous animals as they move through the water. Oqutaq has been exhibited across Canada and is a well-known artist within the Cape Dorset community.

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David Pudlat



David Pudlat was an Inuit carver and printmaking living in Cape Dorset (Kinngait), Nunavut. Although less information is available about David compared to some other prominent Inuit artists, his work and contributions to Inuit art are recognized alongside other members of the Pudlat family.

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Samayuallie Akesuk



Samayuallie Akesuk is a skillful carver from Cape Dorset. Micak Gallery presents “Owl” or Ookpik in Inuktitut. Owls are known as spiritually important, noble creature in Inuit culture. The Ookpik is seen as the night predator, the protector, keeper of wisdoms and a guide from to the next world. An important figure in many stories The Ookpik is depicted in a range of moods- affectionate, comical or playful, or protective, combative and mystical.

STONES: The darker stone is serpentinite, a metamorphic rock. Depending on mineral concentration, colour can range from a light-yellow green to a dark gray green, to almost black. It is quarried at various sites in the southern part of Baffin Island.

The white stone is marble. It usually has some light pink tones and is found about 200 miles down the coast from Kinngait (Cape Dorset) in the region of Andrew Gordon Bay.