

ESKIMO
SCULPTURE
AND PRINTS

An exhibition sponsored
by the Canadian Government

AUCKLAND CITY ART GALLERY

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INTRODUCTION

The Canadian Government is pleased to have the opportunity, with the co-operation and help of the New Zealand Art Galleries, to bring to the New Zealand Public a collection of Eskimo carvings and prints.

The Eskimo people are one of the most widely distributed races on earth. Their prehistoric nomadic wanderings have scattered them half-way around the globe, from north-east Asia across arctic America to Greenland. Excavations of their early dwellings show us that, running parallel with the development of their beautifully functional tools, they have at all times felt the need to create artistic objects expressing their feelings about the wonder of existence, their religion and life around them.

Their art has taken three predominant forms : the plastic art of stone and ivory carving, the art of incised drawings on stone and bone, and the skin appliqué (the cutting out and intricate marrying of dark- and light-coloured skins to form patterns for the decoration of their clothing).

Traditionally, hunting is fundamental to the Eskimo's way of life and his art is closely bound up with his attitude toward the creatures on which his existence has, until the recent past, depended. A vital interest in their movements has sharpened his observation of their forms. He carves from his own experience of them, their bulk and weight. This understanding, on which he has depended for his success in hunting, he uses to shape his material towards the same end - to gain power over the animal itself, or symbolically, over its image. This magical approach to his art and his ability to focus on the essential quality of his subject, to achieve simplification almost to the point of abstraction, gives tremendous force to the work of the Eskimo artist.

It is hoped that this exhibition will give New Zealanders a chance to see for themselves something of the unique carving and graphic art of the Eskimos.

CATALOGUE

Sculpture

- 1 STANDING BEAR EATING FISH by Putagook, Cape Dorset, 1955. Dark grey soapstone, 10"H. attached to wooden stand.
- 2 MAN'S HEAD, artist unknown. Cape Dorset, 1956. Green stone mottled black. 5½" H, 3½" W.
- 3 AKPA (?) artist unknown, Cape Dorset, 1956. Grey stone mottled light grey, ivory eyes (?) missing. 7¼" H.
- 4 SCULPIN, artist unknown. Cape Dorset, 1956. Black stone, greyish and mottled in several places. 2-5/8"H. 7" L.
- 5 ARCTIC HARE, artist unknown, Cape Dorset, 1956. Black soapstone mottled greenish. 1¼"H. 3"L.
- 6 HEAD OF WOMAN AND BIRD on base, artist unknown, Cape Dorset, 1956. With wooden peg. 5¼"H. base 4"L, 2½"W.
- 7 KING'S HEAD, artist unknown, Cape Dorset, 1956. Dark green mottled stone. 4¼"H. 3½"W.
- 8 BIRD, artist unknown, Cape Dorset, 1956. Dark grey mottled soapstone. 1¾"H. 10¼"L.
- 9 BUST OF WOMAN, artist unknown. Cape Dorset, 1956. Dark stone mottled light brown. 4¾"H.
- 10 BEAR SITTING, artist unknown. Cape Dorset, 1956. Very dark grey mottled soapstone. 4¼"H.
- 11 WOMAN AND CHILD, artist unknown, Cape Dorset, 1956. Very dark grey soapstone. 10¼"H.
- 12 STANDING WOMAN by Labita, Cape Dorset, 1957. Black stone mottled grey. 8¼"H.
- 13 KNEELING WOMAN by Stanik, Cape Dorset, 1957. Dark stone 4¾"H. 6¼"L.
- 14 WOMAN by Josephie, Cape Dorset, 1957. Grey soapstone mottled light brown. 9"H. 6"W. 2"D.
- 15 FOX, by Josephie, Cape Dorset, 1957. Dark grey veined stone. 5¼"L.
- 16 BIRD ON BEAR'S HEAD by Toonco, Cape Dorset, 1957. Dark grey soapstone carved light grey. 5¼" H.
- 17 SEAL ON IVORY PLAQUE by Shuceeger, Cape Dorset, 1957. Seal of black stone mottled grey. 3½"H, 4½"L.

- 18 RABBIT by Nevessie, Cape Dorset, 1957. Dark stone mottled grey. $6\frac{1}{2}$ "H, 7"L.
- 19 STANDING MAN, artist unknown, Cape Dorset, 1957. Dark grey soapstone mottled brown. $14\frac{1}{2}$ " H.
- 20 WOMAN AND CHILD by Kecholook, Cape Dorset, 1957. Very dark grey soapstone, $4\frac{1}{4}$ "H.
- 21 FISH by Etougot, Cape Dorset, 1957. Black stone. 3"L.
- 22 WOMAN SITTING, artist unknown, Cape Dorset, 1957. Very dark grey soapstone. $9-3/8$ "H.
- 23 BIRD by Towkie, Cape Dorset, 1957. Dark grey soapstone mottled light grey, $4\frac{3}{4}$ "H. $5\frac{1}{2}$ "L.
- 24 DOG WITH PACK by Niarassic, Cape Dorset, 1957. Black soapstone mottled grey. 3"H, $7\frac{1}{4}$ "L.
- 25 MAN AND SEAL by Kotuk, Cape Dorset, 1958. Light grey mottled soapstone. $7\frac{3}{4}$ "H.
- 26 MAN by Kotuk, Cape Dorset, 1958. Dark stone mottled grey. $11\frac{1}{2}$ "H.
- 27 WOMAN WITH TWO CHILDREN, artist unknown, Cape Dorset, 1960. Green serpentine. 8"H. $8\frac{1}{4}$ "W.
- 28 SMALL WOMAN by Hanu, Ivuyivik. Grey soapstone. $3\frac{3}{4}$ "H. $2\frac{1}{4}$ "W.
- 29 SMALL SEAL, artist unknown. Lake Harbour, 1957. Green serpentine. $1\frac{1}{4}$ "H. $3\frac{1}{4}$ "L.
- 30 HEAD OF BEAR, artist unknown, Lake Harbour, 1956. Dark green veined stone. $1\frac{1}{4}$ "H.
- 31 SEA SPIRIT, artist unknown, Lake Harbour, 1955. Dark stone, body mottled green, two sections, head joined to body by wooden peg. $3\frac{1}{4}$ "L. 3"H.
- 32 HEAD, artist unknown, Lake Harbour, 1956. Dark green veined serpentine. $2\frac{1}{2}$ "H.
- 33 SMALL WALRUS, artist unknown, Lake Harbour, 1956. Light green serpentine, two ivory tusks. $1-5/16$ "H. $2\frac{1}{4}$ "L.
- 34 SEAL by Vepiande, Lake Harbour, 1957. Light green veined serpentine. $3\frac{1}{4}$ "L.
- 35 BEAR'S HEAD by Koolootuk, Lake Harbour, 1957. Light green veined stone. $1\frac{1}{2}$ "H.
- 36 MAN KNEELING, artist unknown, Lake Harbour, 1958. Green serpentine. $4\frac{1}{2}$ "H. $2\frac{3}{4}$ "W.
- 37 STANDING BEAR by Kingalik, Port Harrison, 1954. Dark green stone, brown veins. $2\frac{1}{4}$ "H. 4"L.
- 38 PTARMIGAN, artist unknown, Port Harrison, 1960. Dark green veined stone. 9"H.
- 39 FISH by Kasudluak, Port Harrison, 1957. Dark green stone, $2\frac{1}{2}$ "H. $4\frac{1}{2}$ "L.
- 40 STANDING BIRD by Tooki, Port Harrison, 1957. Grey stone, oiled. $3\frac{3}{4}$ "H.

- 41 OTTER by Kasudiuk, Port Harrison, 1957. Dark green veined stone. $6\frac{1}{4}$ "L.
- 42 BEAR by Simonee, Port Harrison, 1957. Dark grey stone mottled light grey. 7"H.
- 43 WALRUS by Meoxsic, Port Harrison, 1957. Two ivory tusks. Veined serpentine. $2\frac{1}{4}$ "H. $5\frac{1}{2}$ "L. $2\frac{1}{2}$ "D.
- 44 BEAR SITTING by N. Tooki, Port Harrison, 1957. Black soapstone, $6\frac{1}{2}$ "H.
- 45 BIRD (Canada Goose) by Amudluk, Port Harrison, 1957. Black soapstone. $3\frac{1}{4}$ "H. $3\frac{3}{4}$ "L.
- 46 FISH by Pauloosie, Port Harrison, 1957. Serpentine. $2\frac{3}{4}$ "H. $4\frac{3}{4}$ "L.
- 47 BIRD by Pauloosie, Port Harrison, 1957. Dark green veined stone, $3\frac{1}{4}$ "H.
- 48 BIRD, artist unknown, Port Harrison, 1957. Very dark green stone with brown veins. $1\frac{1}{2}$ "H. $2\frac{1}{2}$ "L.
- 49 MAN AT SEAL HOLE by Willie, Port Harrison, 1958. Dark grey stone, mottled darker on man, babiche line, ivory harpoon, soapstone base, wooden peg. $8\frac{3}{4}$ "H. $4\frac{1}{4}$ "L. 3"W.
- 50 FLYING OWL by Willie, Port Harrison, 1958. Owl of black stone with green viens. $8\frac{1}{2}$ "L. 9"W.
- 51 SEAL by Moses, Port Harrison, 1958. Black stone. 4"L.
- 52 SEAL by Rosudmuk, Port Harrison, 1958. Black stone. $2\frac{3}{4}$ "H. $6\frac{1}{4}$ "L.
- 53 MAN AND FLOAT by Byomslook, Port Harrison, 1955. Soapstone. 7"H. $4-1/8$ "D. $6\frac{1}{4}$ "L.
- 54 MAN FISHING by Salassie, Port Harrison, 1958. Soapstone. $6-1/8$ "H. 6"W.
- 55 SITTING BEAR by Ali Aupaluktuk, Povungnituk, 1954. Light green stone, veined. $3\frac{1}{2}$ "H.
- 56 CRAWLING MAN by Sheroapik, Povungnituk, 1955. Soapstone with ivory spear attached by string. 14"L. $4\frac{1}{4}$ "H.
- 57 STANDING BEAR, artist unknown, Povungnituk, 1955. Grey soapstone. 4"H. $7\frac{1}{4}$ "L.
- 58 BEAR AND SEAL ON ICE PAN artist unknown, Povungnituk, 1957. Dark grey mottled stone. 10"L. 7"W. $3\frac{1}{4}$ "H.
- 59 MAN SNOW-BLIND, artist unknown, Povungnituk, 1956. Soapstone. $4\frac{1}{2}$ "H. 8"L. $5\frac{1}{4}$ "D.
- 60 BIRD by Sheeguakit, Povungnituk, 1957. Grey soapstone. $2\frac{1}{4}$ "H. $4\frac{3}{4}$ "L.
- 61 OWL on small base, by Josie, Povungnituk, 1957. Green veined stone. $3\frac{1}{4}$ "H.
- 62 MAN SITTING ON SLED by Marassu, Povungnituk, 1957. Soapstone. $5\frac{1}{4}$ "H. $6\frac{1}{2}$ "L. $3\frac{1}{4}$ "D.
- 63 LOON by Lacassie, Povungnituk, 1958. Grey soapstone. $16\frac{3}{4}$ "L.

- 64 BIRD on small stand, by Josjuk, Povungnituk, 1958. Grey soapstone. 4"H. 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ "L.
- 65 CARIBOU by Aeuliak, Povungnituk, 1960. Black stone, two bone antlers. 5-7/8"H. 7"L.
- 66 FISH by Nulussie, Povungnituk, 1960. Soapstone. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ "H. 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ "L.
- 67 FISH on stand, by Sala, Richmond Gulf, 1954. Dark green veined stone. 4"H. 7"L.
- 68 MAN WITH MASK by Kowoarlik, Sleeper Islands, 1954. Man in green veined serpentine. 3"H. 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ "W.
- 69 WOMAN WITH BRAIDS, artist unknown, Sugluk, 1955. Light grey soapstone. 7"H.
- 70 STANDING MAN by Gaae (blind) Sugluk, 1957. Rough brown stone mottled grey and black, with several natural incrustations. 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ "H.
- 71 WOMAN SEWING by Puppigattok, Sugluk, 1957. Grey soapstone. Ivory needle and thong. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ "W. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ "L.
- 72 SEATED WOMAN by Althen, Sugluk, 1957. Light grey soapstone. 8"H. 8"D. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ "W.
- 73 OTTER, artist unknown, Sugluk, 1957. Black stone. 4-1/8"L.
- 74 MAN KNEELING by Kytuk, Sugluk, 1957. Grey soapstone, ivory knife. 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ "H.
- 75 SEAL by Isaac, Sugluk, 1957. Grey soapstone. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ "L.
- 76 WOMAN AND CHILD by Sarah, Sugluk, 1958. Light grey soapstone. 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ "H.
- 77 WOMAN WITH CHILD ON BACK by Kopatik, Sugluk, 1958. Grey soapstone, base missing. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ "H.
- 78 OTTER, artist unknown, provenance unknown, 1955. Green veined stone. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ "L.
- 79 DIVING SEAL, artist unknown, provenance unknown, 1956. Grey soapstone. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "H. 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ "L.
- 80 SEAL EMERGING, artist unknown, provenance unknown. Light grey stone. 3"L.
- 81 MAN STANDING, artist unknown, provenance unknown, 1956. Grey soapstone mottled brown. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ "H.
- 82 SEAL ON BACK, artist unknown, provenance unknown, 1956. Dark green-black stone. 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ "L.
- 83 SMILING MAN, artist unknown, provenance unknown. Black stone, ivory knife and paddle. 6"H.
- 84 MAN WITH KNIFE, artist unknown, provenance unknown, 1956. Dark green stone with ivory face, knife missing. 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ "H.
- 85 MAN CUTTING SEAL, artist and provenance unknown, 1955. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ "L. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ "H.

Prints

- 1 SPIRITS AT PLAY by Saggiassie. Sealskin stencil
- 2 ESKIMO FAMILY BUILDING CACHE FOR FISH by Kiakshuk. Sealskin stencil
- 3 OWL AND COMPANION by Lucy. Stone cut
- 4 BIRD IN MY MIND by Kenojuak. Stone cut
- 5 FISHERMAN WITH OWL by Jan. Stone cut
- 6 OWL ATTACKING SNOW GOOSE by Kiakshuk. Stone cut
- 7 SPIRITS REACHING FOR MOON by Anootigalook. Stone cut
- 8 ESKIMO COUPLE by Kiakshuk. Stone cut
- 9 WOMAN WITH BIRD IMAGE by Pudlo. Stone cut
- 10 OWL IN FLIGHT by Angotigaluk. Stone cut
- 11 FAMILY STARTLED BY GOOSE by Lucy. Stone cut
- 12 ESKIMO FAMILY PLAYING BALL by Nawpachee. Stone cut
- 13 THREE BLUE BIRDS by Lucy. Sealskin stencil
- 14 ESKIMO FOX TRAPPER by Ohotok. Stone cut
- 15 NIGHT DEMONS OF SKY AND EARTH by Pitseolak. Stone cut
- 16 SEA SPIRITS by Lukta. Lino cut
- 17 MAN AMONG WALRUS by Parr. Stone cut
- 18 SEA MONSTERS DEVOURING WHALE by Kiakshuk. Stone cut
- 19 MOSQUITOS ATTACKING DOG by Pitseolak. Stone cut
- 20 WATER BABY AND SEA DOG by Eegyvdruk. Stone cut
- 21 BIRDS OF MY DREAM by Kovinatilliak. Stone cut
- 22 DOG AND SEAGULL by Sheouak. Sealskin stencil
- 23 SHORE BIRD by Aneriuk. Stone cut.
- 24 FISH AND SPEAR by Pudlo. Sealskin stencil
- 25 ESKIMO MOTHER WITH FOX TRAP by Kiakshuk. Stone cut
- 26 AVINGALUK (THE BIG LEMMING) by Pudlo. Stone cut
- 27 MAN CARRYING RELUCTANT WIFE by Pudlo. Sealskin stencil
- 28 FAMILY OF WHALES by Kiakshuk. Sealskin stencil
- 29 MOTHER BIRDS PROTECTING EGGS by Pitseolak. Sealskin stencil
- 30 OWL WITH THREE BIRDS by Lucy. Stone cut