

Aumaaggiivik Nunavik Arts Secretariat

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Nunavik Arts Workshop in Kangirsuk

Avataq caught up with Sammy Kudluk of Makivvik Corporation to talk about the success of the Annual Nunavik Arts Workshops in Kangirsuk:

I [Sammy Kudluk] coordinated and hosted the Nunavik Annual Artistic Workshops 2012 that took place in Kangirsuk, November 02-15, 2012. The funds come from continued grants from Canadian Heritage that are administered by Makivvik, with some funds coming from Kativik Regional Government's Employment and Training department. With some cutbacks on our usual funding this year, we were only able to train a maximum of 36 Inuit artists, and 33 of those participants completed the art training, with four instructors. The preparations for these art workshops start during the month of June, the actual workshops (this year) were 12 working days. Besides the daily schedule of training, 9 to 5 weekly, excluding Sundays, the participants had a chance to work after hours to exchange skills; short sessions were given on applying for Nunavik Fund grants, and where to buy and how to order art materials.

An exhibition was held on the last day along side a feast and entertainment with the local community. The highlight of the 2 weeks of workshops is always the exhibition event where all artwork made during the 2 weeks is exhibited and sold; the participants are given plaques commemorating their training. Gifts and prizes are also exchanged among the participants, local people and organizations.

I think these types of art workshops should be held regularly, whether the number of participants is smaller or larger, these kinds of workshops have such a positive impact on emerging and professional Inuit artists, which impacts the local and regional Inuit art market positively. I definitely think it was successful, every time we have a chance to train, share skills and mentor emerging artists and experienced artists; it has a positive impact on individual artists and their ability to produce art.



Exhibition by artists after the workshops



Workshop participants at the exhibition

Carving-Jewelry

Mark Tertiluk
Joanasi Kaitaq
Jonassie Kudluk
Betsy Kotak
Lizzie Epoo-York
Paulossie Mikpegak
Maggie Kiatainaq
Eli T. Quananack
Moses Naluyiuk
Gilbert Inukupuk
Peter Annahatak
Norman Adams

Design

Rosie Ronnie Partridge
Sarah Morgan
Tiriisi I. Robertson
Leah Kudluk
Annie Simiunie
Diane Gadbois
Melinda Hickey
Kitty Gordon
Lizzie Sivuarapik
Maggie T.Kulula
Christina Sinupa Arnatuk
Louisa Yeates

Printmaking

Eva Kulula Kasudluak
Passa Mangiuk
Sarah Ainalik
Siaja Usuarjuk
Lucy Kaukai
Victoria Lucassie
Jessie Koneak Jones
Peter Koovalook
Alice Lucassie

(© photos : Sammy Kudluk)



Carvings at the exhibit

Melinda Hickey, Kuujuaq

I just wanted to say a few words, about how amazing the course was, how important it is to have these opportunities, how these things bring elders & young ones together in a positive way, I have a lot to say, how I learned not just to sew an amaarutik, but I saw another community, I heard another dialect, I bonded with people, strangers who became friends, saw how the elders interacted, I can go on and on...

Paulusie Shauk, Chisasibi

I enjoyed the course in Kangirsuk, it was my second year taking a course. It was good to see others that I met before and got to see new ones. I learned a few things about caribou antlers, and few ways of cutting ivory and musk ox horns. One of the ladies got to be pro in working with caribou antler. I also liked one of the guys' small little kamiks, and my friend Gilbert Inukpuk showed me a few things about soapstone carving. Always good to learn new things in art.



Design workshop

Avataq Benefit-Cocktail

Due to severe budget cuts and a looming deficit, Avataq Cultural Institute has been forced to cut back on expenses and everyone involved in the institution has had to make sacrifices. Avataq has been dedicated to preserving and promoting Inuit Culture of Nunavik since 1980, so these budget cuts have been especially difficult to implement without having to cut back too much on activities, such as language preservation, archeology, access to the archives and documentation center, genealogy and support and promotion of Nunavik artists.

Avataq held its very first fundraiser and promotion event at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts on December 5th; the evening consisted of a silent auction, live auction as well as speeches by Inuit politicians and performances by various artists. Included in the entertainment section was the Hip Hop group “Pivallianiq” from Kuujuaq, trained by Blue Print 4 Life as well as a few numbers by the esteemed singer-songwriter, Elisapie Isaac. The evening also featured an excerpt from the play “Kautjajuk” by the Nunavik Theatre Company and a spoken-word poem by Taqralik Partridge, who was the evening’s MC.

The fundraiser succeeded in its goal to make \$100,000 for the Institution. Thanks to the Honorary Committee who supported our mission financially by promoting the event to donors across the province; the event was organized by the dedicated staff of Avataq.

(© photos : Patrice Halley)



Honorary Committee: Yvan Loubier, Jean-Francois Arteau, Charlie Arngak, Taqralik Partridge, Donat Savoie, Leandre Gervais, Michel Poulette, Robert Fréchette. Not shown Guy St-Julien



*Minnie Itidloie and
Jeannie Nungak,
Avataq Board Members*



*Karim BenDriss and Taqralik Partridge animating
the live auction*



*Hannah Tooktoo and
Eva Angnatuk , KMHB
Pivallianiq Hip Hop
group members*



*Elisapie Isaac
and her band*

Beatrice Deer discusses her Christmas Album

Beatrice Deer is one of Nunavik's favorite singer-songwriters. Originally from Quaqtaq, she now lives and works out of Montreal. Having begun her career in music some years ago, Beatrice is no stranger to the business, and her professionalism and dedication to her art is apparent in all of her work. Easily one of the best live acts one could have the privilege of watching, her high-energy performances are usually met with great enthusiasm and much deserved praise. Beatrice was the recipient of the Best Inuit Cultural Album at the Aboriginal Music Awards in 2006 for her first album *Just Bea*. She has 3 albums out and one on the way. Aumaaggiivik had a quick chat with Beatrice to catch up on some of her activities:

How many years have you been singing?

I sang for the first time in front of an audience at the age of 15. I've been singing for 15 years. I've had my band for 2 1/2 years now.

You received a grant from the Aumaaggiivik – Nunavik Arts Secretariat to record your new album, how has that gone, and when can we expect a release?

I received about half of what I need to record a full-length album. I am prerecording in December so I intend to use all the funds received. My band is prerecording as well and recording in the month of January. We expect to release the album in the spring of 2013.

Since you recorded your Christmas album, it has been a favorite of many Nunavimmiut, and in this season, there's no doubt that it's probably being played right now! Tell me a little about how this album came to be. My Christmas album was a life long dream. My producer TJ Plenty recorded all the instruments. Nelia Berkin did some backing vocals and some piano on the album. "Christmas Time Without You" is an original that my producer wrote and asked if I would like to record it. I gladly accepted. I translated "Christmas Time is Here" into Inuktitut. I wanted to record "Unnuaq Upinnaq" ("Silent Night") and "Ulluariaq Qaumavuuq Unnuami" ("A Star is Shining Brightly") in Inuktitut because I think they are Inuit Christmas classics.

You may purchase *An Arctic Christmas*, by Beatrice Deer on iTunes and in Nunavik Coop Stores.



Beatrice Deer and her band from left to right: Jordey Tucker, Mike Felber, Christopher McCarron, Tyson Schallmann. (© photo : Beatrice Deer)

In the Next Issue on Artist Profiles

Mary Paningajak Alaku

Mary is the recipient of Avataq's Artistic Residency in Montreal, she is spending 3 months in the city to develop her skills and promote her work. In the next edition of the *Aumaaggiivik Newsletter*, Mary Paningajak Alaku will talk about her experience.

Painting by Mary Paningajak Alaku



Aumaaggiivik Artist Assistance Program

Aumaaggiivik has several grants available to support Inuit artists through the difficult financial burden of creating art. If you are an artist or writer, you might be eligible for a grant from the Nunavik Arts Secretariat, individual grant application may receive up to \$2500 per artist, and up to \$5,000 per group. You may visit this website for more details on the grants, criteria and deadlines:

http://www.avataq.qc.ca/en/node_189/Aumaaggiivik-Nunavik-Arts-Secretariat/Grant-Programs

Avataq also administers the Artists Assistance Program, which has two types of grants, one concerning public performances and one for individual or group projects in art. Details for this grant are included in the link above; the deadline for this grant is March 31st 2013.

If you need support in filling out an application, you may contact Sammy Kudluk at Makivvik 819-964-2925 or Louis Gagnon at Avataq in Montreal at 1-800-361-5029 ext. 246.



« Travelling Love », Elisapie Isaac

Elisapie, "Travelling Love"
(© photo : Raphaël Ouellet)

Elisapie is one of Nunavik's most prestigious artists, her new album, *Travelling Love*, was released in the fall of 2012, and is now available for purchase. This album is sure to be as moving as her last, with a fun and energetic pop feel. Elisapie will be playing concerts in New York January 10, 11 and 12, 2013.

"Love cannot be owned. It is something that is always moving, always flowing. That's what I mean by 'Travelling Love'." – Elisapie Isaac

Call for projects

The Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec (CALQ) and the Musée de la civilisation de Québec are launching a competition for the production of three works to be presented in conjunction with a summary exhibition devoted to the Aboriginal peoples planned for the fall of 2013. The deadline for submissions is January 23, 2013. Artists may submit any form of digital or visual art, cinema and videos. The targeted candidates are professional aboriginal artists. For more information on the criteria, rules and expectations, please visit:

http://www.calq.gouv.qc.ca/artistes/autochtones_en.htm

Call for projects for the production of works within the framework of the Exposition de synthèse et de référence sur les Premières Nations et les Inuits du Québec at the Musée de la civilisation

"What does it mean to be an Aboriginal person in the 21st century?"

2013 FCNQ carving contest: *Legends*

Big prizes!

Legend is any story that comes from Inuit culture. A few examples are Sedna or Lumaq. There are many stories, old or recent, that can also be used. It will be important to have a description included with the artwork.

Category: Adult

1st place: \$2500.00

2nd place: \$1250.00

3rd place: \$750.00

Category: Youth

1st place: \$1100.00

2nd place: \$900.00

3rd place: \$500.00

The Inuit youth contest category is for the 20 and under age group. Just make sure the purchaser indicates the carving is from a youth and for the contest. A youth can be included in the adult category and be eligible for the larger prizes but he/she cannot win more than one prize.

The youth prizes have been increased thanks to a \$2000.00 donation from the Gallery Nunamit located in Geneva.

Contest Rules

- Any Nunavik Inuit carver can submit a carving for this contest.
- One entry per carver will be used in the judging of the contest.
- Entries will be judged on the quality of the artwork and artistic interpretation.
- The carving can be made of one material or a mix of them. It can be made of soapstone, antler, ivory and other materials from Nunavik.
- The last day to submit a carving is March 15th, 2013.
- The winners will be announced at the 2013 General Meeting.
- If there are still too few entries in a category, we will delay that category of the contest until there are enough.

The contest applies to artwork purchased by the co-op and sent to the Federation. Just bring your artwork for sale to the co-op as usual, but make sure the purchaser knows this is a contest carving. **The latest date is March 15th, 2013.** The winners will be announced at the 2013 General Meeting.

Aumaaggiivik - Nunavik Arts Secretariat

In the spring of 2009, Avataq Cultural Institute set up a new department called Aumaaggiivik, the Nunavik Arts Secretariat. Established with the aid of funding from the Kativik Regional Government (KRG), the Kativik Local Development Centre (KLDC), Makivvik Corporation and the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec (CALQ), Aumaaggiivik was created with the goal of promoting the development of the arts in Nunavik, as well as encouraging economic development and the creation of long-term employment opportunities in the region's arts and culture sector.

Aumaaggiivik – which takes its name from the Inuktitut word that means «the place where sparks are sourced» – provides support to artists in every artistic discipline (the visual arts, music, media arts, literature, story-telling, etc.) by boosting their careers through a programme of arts grants and specialized training.

Aumaaggiivik also provides artistic residencies, and supports the establishment of local infrastructure to provide work space for artists and to promote the arts both within and outside the region.

For all questions and comments regarding Aumaaggiivik:

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