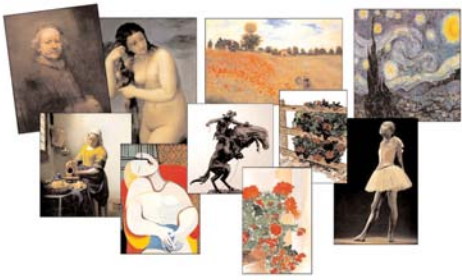


A DAY IN THE ARTS

Making art accessible to all

April 27, 2009 ADA0050 www adayinthearts.com



Dancing Bear, by Kooyoo Peter, Cape Dorset, Nunavut, 10 3/4"H x 6 1/4"W \$650.00 CDN Available from <http://www.snowgoose.ca/>

INUIT STONE SCULPTURES FROM THE ARCTIC NORTH

By Clint Leung

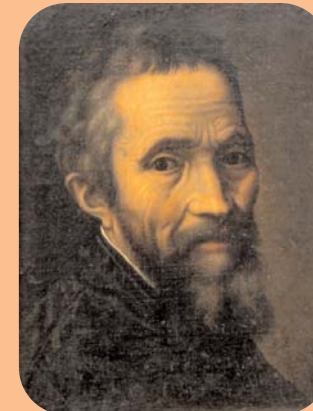
When most people think about stone sculptures, it's probably giant pieces of abstract art located outside large buildings or perhaps inside a famous art gallery or museum. Sometimes people think of stone sculptures as the ancient Roman or Greek mythological characters like Apollo, Venus or Zeus. For contemporary fine art, many see stone sculpture only for serious collectors or for the rich and famous to display in their well kept mansions. Most individuals, even avid art fans, rarely think about or are even aware of Inuit stone sculptures from the Canadian Arctic north.

The Inuit people (formerly referred to as Eskimos in Canada) have been carving stone sculptures for thousands of years but it was only introduced as fine art to the modern world on a significant scale during the 1950s. Today, Inuit stone sculptures have gained international recognition as a valid form of contemporary fine art.

WORD OF THE DAY

CARYATID

A draped female figure supporting an entablature, in the place of a column or pilaster. The male counterpart is an atlant, atlantid, or atlas



"I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free."
- Michelangelo

ART AEROBICS

Practice you drawing skills

Make a clay or Play-Doh model of a telephone. Five minutes. ✉



Diving Seal by Anilnilk Peelaktoak 10x10 x3 -\$650
Available from <http://www.tribalexpressions.com>

Even so, most people who are aware of Inuit stone sculptures are those who have visited Canada in the past and got exposed to this interesting form of aboriginal art while visiting Canadian museums or galleries.

If you haven't seen Inuit stone sculpture, there's a lot to offer from the Canadian Arctic. The Inuit do some very realistic sculp-

tures of the Arctic wildlife they are so intimately familiar with. These include seals, walrus, birds and of course, the mighty polar bears. Human subjects depicting the Inuit Arctic lifestyle are also popular as stone sculptures. One can see pieces showing hunters, fisherman and even Inuit mothers with their children. The stone sculptures can come in a variety of different colors including

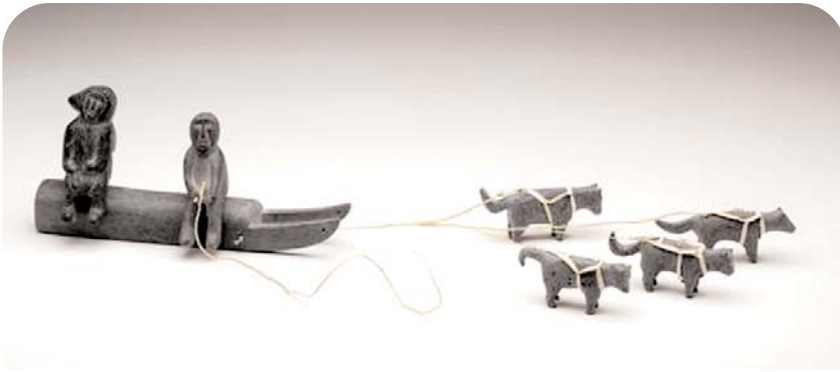
black, brown, grey, white and green. Some pieces are highly polished and shiny while others retain the rougher, primitive look. Styles can vary depending upon where in the Arctic the Inuit sculptors are located.

An Inuit stone sculpture can

definitely be integrated into one's home décor and will usually be quite a conversational piece since most people have never seen such artwork before. This is especially true in areas located outside Canada where Inuit stone sculpture is not well known. Canadians have often given Inuit stone sculptures as unique business or personal gifts. There are Inuit stone



Joyful Walrus, 2004, Axangayu Shaa(1937-), Cape Dorset Serpentine stone sculpture, 14.5" x 13" x 7.5, SOLD



Travelling Couple, 1970-72, Joy Kiluvigyuak Hallauk (1940-2000),
Arviat Steatite stone sculpture, 5" x 25" x 6"
SOLD

Right: Pudlalik Shaa's hunter is expertly balanced - 9 x 7 x 8 -
\$1900 Available from: <http://www.tribalexpressions.com>

sculptures to suit almost every price range and budget at about \$100 to several thousand dollars for large, intricate pieces. Most can be purchased at galleries located in major Canadian cities but there are now a few galleries located in the USA and Europe that specialize in this form of art. Not surprisingly, the latest retail source of Inuit stone sculpture is on the internet. This development is especially useful for those who are not located near an Inuit art gallery.

So if Inuit stone sculpture is new to you, have a look on the internet. You will likely be impressed by the workmanship and artistic beauty of this unique art form. An entire new world from the Canadian Arctic will be available to you for your enjoyment.

*Clint Leung is owner of Free Spirit Gallery
<http://www.FreeSpiritGallery.ca>, an online gallery specializing in Inuit art and Native American Indian art. including carvings and prints. Also numerous information articles and videos.*

