

Art of Astonishing Power and Simplicity from the Land of Nunavut

If you think Inuit art is just polar bears and walruses – think again. InuitArtPod.com offers an arresting array of sculptures and prints from the Canadian North. Learn how this dynamic, moving art form came into being.

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada [month day], [year] – At InuitArtPod.com, new and seasoned Inuit art collectors have an online resource to view, research, and purchase evocative sculptures and prints from the Canadian North.

The owners of InuitArtPod.com, Philippe Bourdeau and Simon Létourneau, showcase a diverse range of art sculptures and prints crafted by Canadian Inuit. While some may think of Inuit art as only kitschy carvings sold by the dozens in Canadian airport gift shops, Philippe and Simon know better.

From the frigid, snow-swept land of Arctic Canada (part of which became the Inuit nation of Nunavut in 1999) comes art that interprets and records the close relation the Inuit have always had with wildlife and family.

Inuit sculptures and prints demand attention not just because of their energy and intensity, but also because of the unusual story of how Inuit art came into being.

Up until World War II, the Inuit of Arctic Canada survived as their ancestors did – by hunting and living close to the land. The few modern conveniences introduced by outsiders changed their world very little. But economic hardships forced the Canadian government to intervene, and by the 1970s the Canadian Inuit were living in settlements – a foreign way of life to them.

Forced to change their traditional lifestyle, the Inuit found solace and income in producing art the world has never seen before – compelling images of the land, family, and mythology. The artists create their sculptures only from stone mined in the Canadian North. The range of stone types and colors is as varied as the artists' styles, which runs the gamut from highly stylized to naturalistic.

Interest in Inuit art is growing thanks to international demand – especially from France, with its history of colonizing Canada and interest in art from other cultures. A 2005 Inuit art exhibit in Paris, “Inuit: When Words Take Shape,” was a smashing success. Even French president Jacques Chirac, an Inuit art owner, attended.

But even as interest in Inuit art is on the rise, the number of Inuit artists is decreasing. Many Inuit youth no longer maintain ties with the land or the art that has sustained their people. Instead, they seek out larger cities or government jobs from the new government of Nunavut. If demand for Inuit art continues to grow while the number of artists

dwindles, the value of these fine examples of Inuit craftsmanship and imagery will only increase.

Philippe Bourdeau and Simon Létourneau, both businessmen with a love of Inuit art, stress that art lovers should only invest in signed Inuit art with an authenticity tag. In fact, all of the art sold by InuitArtPod is one-of-a-kind – no duplicates exist anywhere else in the world. To ensure that artists receive a fair price for their work, Bourdeau and Létourneau buy directly from the artists or artist cooperatives.

Further details on their premier gift, shipping, and tracking services, as well as articles on Inuit art history and Inuit art styles, are available at <http://www.inuitartpod.com>.

About InuitArtPod.com:

Philippe Bourdeau and Simon Létourneau, owners of InuitArtPod.com, are eager to educate those curious about Inuit art and to serve seasoned Inuit art collectors. Their Web site provides a gallery of Inuit art and services – including worldwide shipping and prices in multiple currencies – that make it easy for anyone in the world to become acquainted with Inuit art.

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