

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***Printed Textiles from Kinngait Studios***

**December 7, 2019–August 30, 2020**

CURATORIAL LEAD: Roxane Shaughnessy PROJECT PARTNER: West Baffin Eskimo Cooperative

OPENING CELEBRATION, ALL ARE WELCOME! **Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2-5pm**

November 21, 2019 TORONTO – This December, the Textile Museum of Canada is excited to mount **a landmark exhibition** at the turn of our 45th anniversary. ***Printed Textiles from Kinngait Studios*** presents the little-known story of a group of Inuit artists and printmakers who produced a collection of bold graphic textiles in Kinngait, Nunavut in the 1950s and '60s – a period of social change that disrupted traditional language and relationships to the land.

The exhibition will open in Toronto on December 7, 2019 and run until August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. It will then tour throughout Canada in 2021 with dates and locations to be announced.

*Printed Textiles from Kinngait Studios* shines a light on the story of the textile printing initiative and was made possible through partnership with the West Baffin Eskimo Cooperative (WBEC) and the contributions of many in the Kinngait community and in the South, who have helped bring more awareness to this remarkable collection. The voices and work of contemporary artists from Kinngait and other parts of Nunavut open up conversations about the continued significance of these early printed fabrics, and their importance in the history of Inuit cultural heritage.” -ROXANE SHAUGHNESSY

The collection is on long-term loan to the Museum from the West Baffin Eskimo Cooperative and is a physical record of a relatively short-lived experimental initiative undertaken by Inuit artists in the early days of the WBEC. *Printed Textiles from Kinngait Studios* traces the evolution and impact of this textile enterprise on Inuit graphic arts and explores its continued relevance through the work of present-day Inuit artists and fashion designers. As part of the Museum’s commitment to bringing to the foreground Indigenous knowledge and voices, the project includes extensive consultations with the Kinngait community in both Nunavut and Inuit in the South.

The exhibition will feature works from well-known Inuit graphic artists such as **Kenojuak Ashevak** (1927-2013), **Pitseolak Ashoona** (1904–1983), **Parr** (1893–1969), and **Pudlo Pudlat** (1916–1992) alongside interviews and oral histories from the Kinngait community and present-day Kinngait artists **Johnny Pootoogook**, **Malaija Pootoogook**, **Ooloosie Salie**, and **Ningiukulu Teevee**. It will also feature new work from three contemporary Inuit fashion designers - **Martha Kyak** of **InukChic**, **Nooks Lindell** of **Hinaani Designs**, and **Tarralik Duffy** of **Ugly Fish**.

“I’m really happy to see that Inuit and First Nations design...is really starting to rise. There is this new wave of bringing it back, and bringing it back with such attitude, often times almost aggressively, because it was almost taken away from us. So, we’re super proud to show it off, that it’s still here. It’s such a powerful thing.” –NOOKS LINDELL

The Museum is embracing the opportunity by creating broad access that expands beyond the exhibition including a full colour illustrated catalogue, resource guide, online resources, and public programming. Study of these printed textiles is an essential and under-researched facet of the history of Inuit art and represent a largely unknown and unattributed body of work for many of the early artists.

The Textile Museum of Canada is honoured to have a part in sharing the story of these textiles and their artists. We continue to seek opportunities for collaboration from the Kinngait community and look forward to bringing the exhibition back to Kinngait to link the community to the art produced by previous generations.

PRESENTING SPONSOR: BMO Financial Group | This project has been made possible in part by the Government of Canada. | SUPPORTERS: Department of Canadian Heritage; Ontario Arts Council; Toronto Arts Council; Canada Council for the Arts; Government of Ontario | PROJECT ADVISORS: West Baffin Eskimo Cooperative Arts Committee and Dr. Heather Igloliorte | FUNDERS: The Schreibers; William R. and Shirley Beatty Charitable Foundation; David Sharpe, Bridging Finance Inc.

#### PROGRAMS

- **Exhibition Tour with Nakasuk Alariaq:** December 8, 12-1:30 pm (free with admission)
- **Presentation: Alexa Hatanaka and Embassy of Imagination:** January 8, 6-7 pm
- **Teacher's Evening: Focus on Inuit Culture:** February 5, 5-7 pm (free with admission)
- **Textile Seminar: The West Baffin Eskimo Cooperative Collection:** Wednesday February 26, 6-7:30 pm
- **Printmaking Workshop with the Contemporary Textile Studio Co-op:** March 27, 2020, 5:30-7 pm at the Textile Museum of Canada and Saturday March 28, 2020, 10 am-4 pm at the Contemporary Textile Studio Co-op

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#### **ABOUT THE TEXTILE MUSEUM OF CANADA**

The Textile Museum of Canada has been exploring ideas and building cultural understanding through the universal medium of textiles since 1975. Connecting international textile traditions to contemporary art and design, this national museum is one of Canada's most engaging arts institutions, welcoming thousands of visitors from across the country and around the world each year. The Museum's permanent collection spans 2,000 years and consists of over 15,000 artifacts from 200 countries and regions, uniquely positioning the Museum to speak to global culture as well as our increasingly global communities. A leader in the digitization of collections and interactive environments, the Textile Museum of Canada is recognized for its innovation in the development of landmark educational, research, and creative initiatives. [textilemuseum.ca](http://textilemuseum.ca)

#### **MEDIA INQUIRIES**

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**HIGH-RES IMAGES:** [textilemuseum.wordpress.com](http://textilemuseum.wordpress.com)