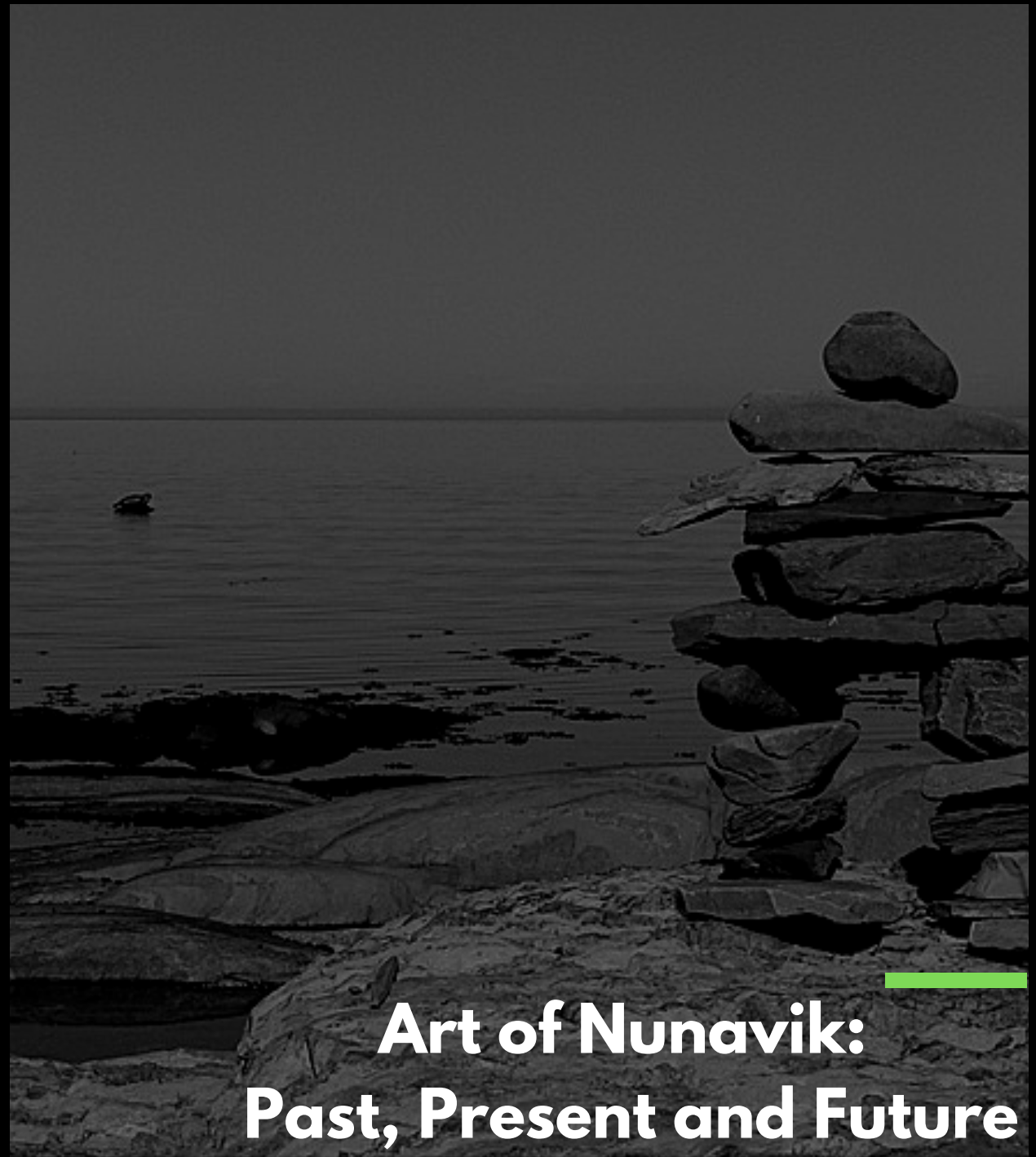


Carving

Information and
Biographies



**Art of Nunavik:
Past, Present and Future**



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Carving before the 1940's

Carving in Nunavik

Inuit have been practicing the traditional art of carving for thousands of years. In the earlier years, they were mostly carving utensils, tools for hunting and fishing (harpoon heads, arrowheads, knives) as well as toys and containers. These items could be carved out of bone, antler, ivory and drifting wood depending on the region. Most carvings were very small pieces, due to the nomadic way of life.

Although the Inuit of Ungava also made carvings, they seem to have produced less than the Inuit from the Hudson Coast, possibly due to a lack of stones.



The qulliq, a seal oil lamp, was mostly carved out of steatite or soapstone. The qulliq was a very important item used for cooking, lighting and heating the tent or the igloo. Men used to bring smaller qulliqs on their hunting travels as they were lighter than regular qulliqs used in the home.



Petroglyphs (carvings in rock) can be found near Kangiqsujuaq.

A very small mask was made by Inuit before 400 B.C. It was found near Salluit, on an island at the archeological Tyara site.

Carving in the 1940's

Before the 1940's, the Inuit from Nunavik traded some of their carvings with whalers, explorers and other arctic visitors.

In 1948, James Houston a young artist from Ontario, went to Inukjuak to draw Arctic landscapes. While he was there, he traded one of his drawings for a carving made by Nayoumealuk. He then brought back to Montreal a dozen carvings from Nunavik. These carvings sold very quickly and he encouraged Inuit to create art objects to help the economic situation at the time.

"What we show in our carving is the life we have lived in the past right up to today. We show the truth."

Paulosie Kasadluak,
Inukjuak



"Hint of Sedna" by Lawson Tuckatuck

The stones used to carve in Nunavik are mostly serpentine found along the bank of the Inukjuak River and steatite, which is found in many different communities (Puvirnituk, Akulivik, Ivujivik and Salluit). Inuit used to go to the quarries during the winter as it was easier to bring back the stones on a qamutik. They would use files and pocket knives to mine and to work the stone. Many artists would use seal blubber to give the stone a dark finish.

In the 21st century, Inuit are still carving. Sculptors use mechanical tools and electric grinders but the steps to creating a carving are essentially the same. They can find stone at the quarry and extract it with an axe. Then they saw or chop off useless parts of the sculpture. Then, using knives and gauges, they make more details in the stone. The next step is filing and polishing the sculpture. The sculptor will then shine the final product, possibly with clear shoe polish.

Lawson is an artist from Kuujjuaraapik born on March 14, 1976. He is now living in Kuujjuaq and working at the Education Services for Kativik Iisarniliriniq. Lawson is a sculptor and jewelry-maker and uses many different mediums such as marble, soapstone, muskox horn, caribou antler, and ivory. He likes to incorporate many mediums in one sculpture. Many of his pieces represent traditional themes like Inuit stories, legends, myths and events. Some of his art can be found in international museums like the Canadian Museum of Inuit Art in Toronto and the Musée des Confluences in Lyon, France.



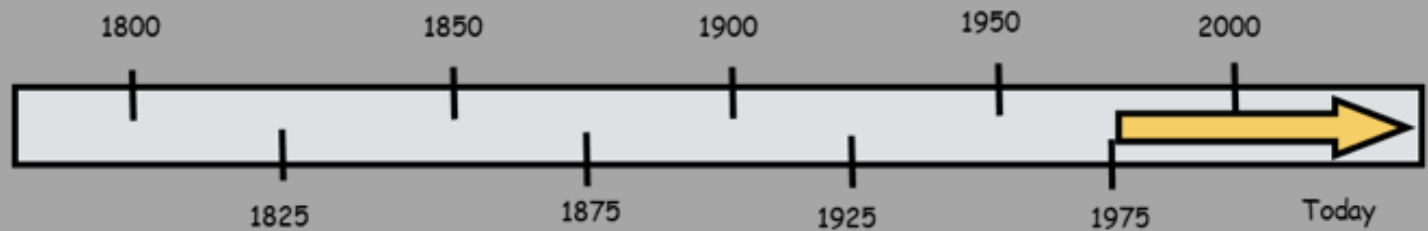
Lawson Alec Tuckatuck



"Okpik"
2007



"Drum Dancer"
2007



What would be your best piece of advice to students who want to be artists?

"Practice, practice more to get better at it."

Lawson Alec Tuckatuck



"Elegance"
2006

Noah Meeko

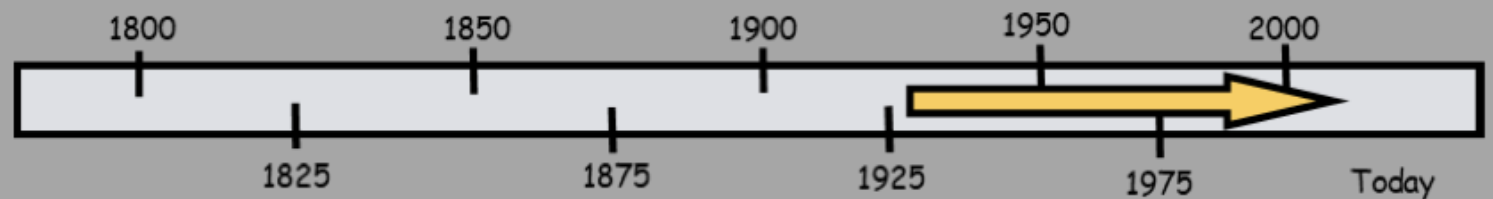
Noah Meeko was born in Sanikiluaq in 1928, but moved to Kuujuaaraapik with his family when he was a child. He is known for his carvings and his printmaking. He carved his own print stones and also carved those of his wife, Lucy Meeko. Some of his prints made from stencilling and silk-screening were presented in the 1973 Print Collection. Noah has also worked with snow sculptures. He participated in national competitions of snow sculpture held in Quebec in 1977 and 1982. His work can be found in collections around Canada and he has been featured in exhibits in Jerusalem and throughout the United States.



"Bear Shaman"
n.d.



"Seal"
1984



Fun fact about the artist

Noah Meeko represented Nunavik in the 1992

Winter Olympics in France where he demonstrated his skills in snow sculpture.



"Mother and Son"

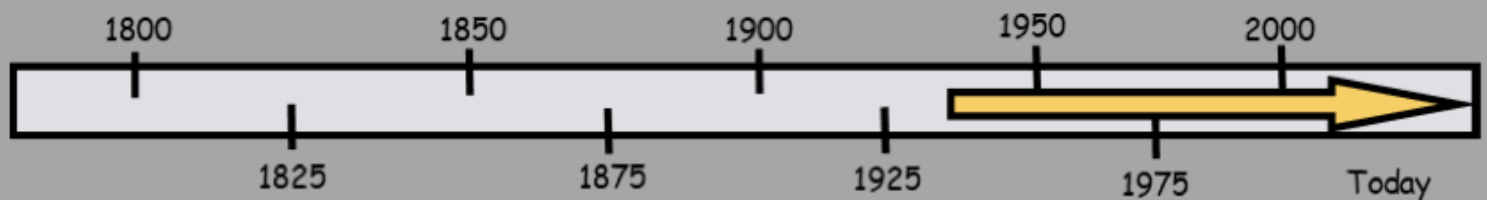
1973

Joshua Jr. Sala

Joshua Jr. Sala was born in Sanikiluaq in 1936 and then moved to Kuujjuaraapik in 1958. When Umiujaq was established in 1986, Joshua moved to this new community. He learned how to carve from watching other carvers when he was in his twenties. Joshua mostly uses Inuit culture as his inspiration and theme. He carves using many different mediums such as antler, stone, and narwhal parts. But he prefers to carve soapstone as it is the easiest for him.



"Inuk Hunting Walrus Spirit"
n.d.







Lucassie Echalook

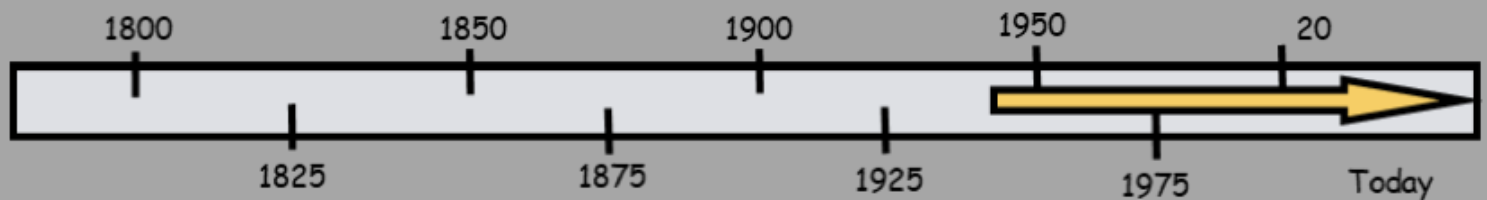
Lucassie Echalook was born in 1942 in a small hunting camp near Inukjuak. He learned to carve after his father's death by observing Peter, Thomassie Echalook's brother. Lucassie was mostly a carver, but he has also made some prints that were included in the 1975 Arctic Quebec Print catalogue. In the past, his main theme was hunting scenes, but his later work includes spirits and shamanic transformations. His work has appeared in exhibitions around the world: North America, France and Korea. His work is also included in collections at museums and galleries across Canada.



"Two Women Making Throat Music"
1975



"Man Making Kudlik"
2003



Fun fact about the artist

Lucassie Echalook likes to carve with his longtime friend Daniel Inukpuk. Whenever they are ready to make a carving of a human figure, they like to observe each other's body movements.



"Making a Bow"
2008

Noah Echalook was born in 1946 on Elsie Island and is now living in Inukjuak. Noah learned how to carve through his uncle Lucassie Echalook. Although he has also done some prints, he is mainly a carver. His carvings in his early years were mostly based on animals but later on, he exploited the theme of women engaged in domestic activities. His work has been identified as "super-realism" with distorted and amplified facial expressions but he always pays a lot of attention to detail. His first solo exhibition was at the Raven Gallery in Minneapolis, Minnesota in the United States. Since then, he has had exhibitions all over Canada in Toronto, Ottawa, Winnipeg, and more.



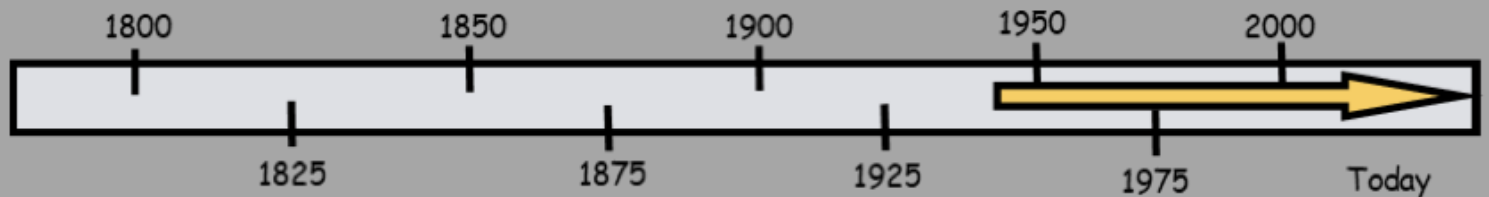
Noah Echalook



"Woman Playing a String Game"
1987



"Mother and Child Drumdancing"
nd



Fun fact about the artist

He likes to use ivory to inlay facial features such as teeth.



"Goose"

1972



Aisa Amittu

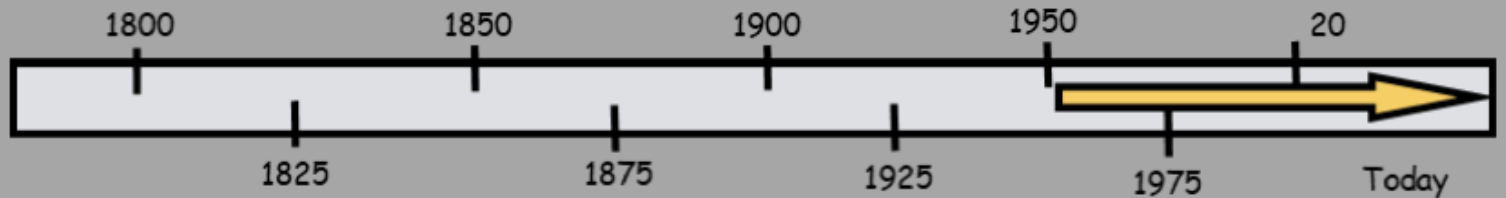
Aisa Amittu was born on September 6, 1951 in Puvirnituq. He is a carver and printmaker. He started carving when he was very young by watching his father, reknown artist Davidialuk Alasua Amittu. Aisa has mostly used dark stone for his sculptures, but he has also used materials like ivory and antler. He likes to make sculptures and prints related to Inuit legends and myths. Many of his pieces can be found in exhibitions around the world, in Belgium, Germany, New York, France, and Spain.



"Katjutaijuk"
n.d.



"Egg Collecting"
1999



Fun fact about the artist

During the 1998 Inuit Art Foundation's Nunavik Carvers Symposium, Aisa carved a large elephant because he "always wanted to carve an elephant".



"Elephant"
1998



Joe Talirunili was born in 1906 in Qugaaluk River camp and moved to Puvirnitug where he spent the rest of his life. He is known for his carvings, his printing and his drawings. In his carvings, Joe likes to use soapstone, string, plastic, wood and other materials. He likes to explore the themes of animals such as owls, boats and human figures. He is best known for his migration scenes. These scenes represent a childhood experience in which a boating journey has gone wrong.

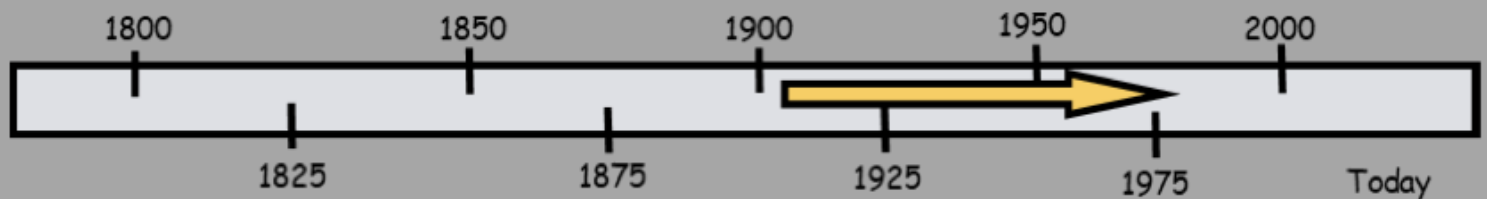
Joe Talirunili



"Standing Woman"
1960-1976



"Kayakers Seal Hunting"
1963



Fun fact about the artist

One of his "migration" carvings was made on a 14-cent Canadian stamp in 1976.



Stamp "Migration"
1976



Adamie Anautak was born in 1946 in Puvirnituq and moved to Akulivik later in his life. He is the son of the sculptor Lukasi Anauta, also from Puvirnituq. Some of his work has been exhibited in countries like Canada, the United States, France and Korea. His work is displayed at the Museum of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia and also at the Winnipeg Art Gallery.

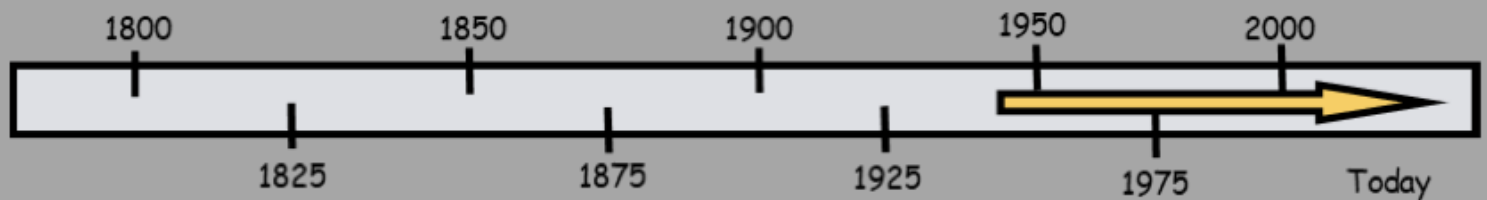
Adamie Anautak



"Sedna With Otter"
n.d.



"Woman Flensing Hide"
n.d.



Fun fact about the artist

Adamie Anautak made the monumental carving in front of Tukisiniarvik School in Akulivik.





Mattiusi Iyaituk was born in 1950 in Cape Smith, but he has called Ivujivik his home for many years. He started carving when he took a chipped piece of stone from his brother's carving. Mattiusi likes to work with different stones such as marble, dark green serpentine and alabaster. His inspiration is mostly hunting and family life. Since the late 1970's, he is considered more of an abstract artist and likes to let people dream about what his carvings are about. As the President of the Inuit Art Foundation for over 16 years, Mattiusi has travelled around the world promoting Inuit art. He has taught workshops on carving in Siberia and China, amongst other countries.

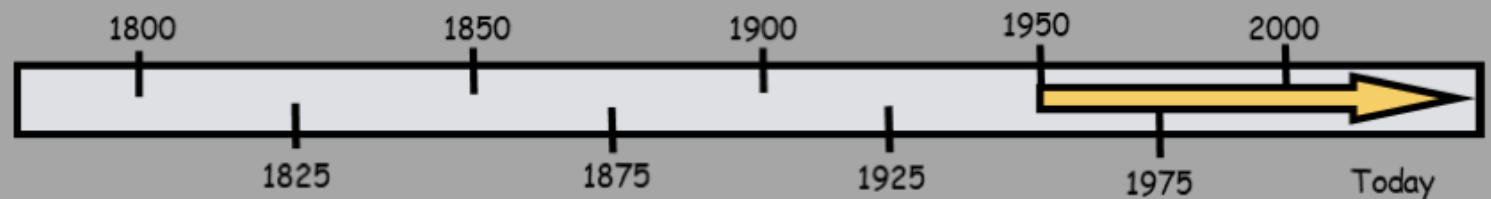
Mattiusi Iyaituk



"Young Fisherman Anticipating a Good Catch of Fish"
n.d.



"Woman Stretching Skin"
1996



Fun fact about the artist

Before becoming a full-time artist, Mattiusi was a police officer in his community.



"Whistling at Northern Lights"
1999-2000



Tivi Ilisituk was born in 1933 in Salluit. He started carving with the encouragement of the Hudson Bay Company in the early 1950's. He would carve in his free time when he was not hunting or fishing. For his early carvings, he mostly used the light grey stone from Kovik River. The theme that kept coming back in his work was hunting. Although carving was the main technique he used, Tivi also did some prints. Tivi had 2 solo exhibitions in Ontario and in New York and his sculptures are kept in important national museums throughout Canada.

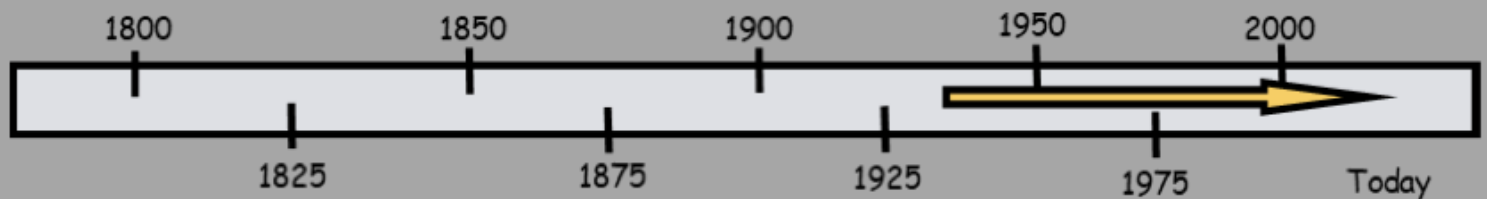
Tivi Ilisituk



"Hunter and Seal"
n.d.



"Collecting Water"
n.d.



Fun fact about the artist

He is known as one of Salluit's most gifted
carvers.



"Walrus Hunter"

2009



Jobie Arnaituq was born in Kangiqsujuaq in 1948 and followed in his mother's footsteps when he started carving. Jobie is not only a sculptor, but he is also a printmaker and a musician. His work is exhibited in Canada and in France. His sculptures can also be found in the Inuit Art Collection of the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Gatineau.

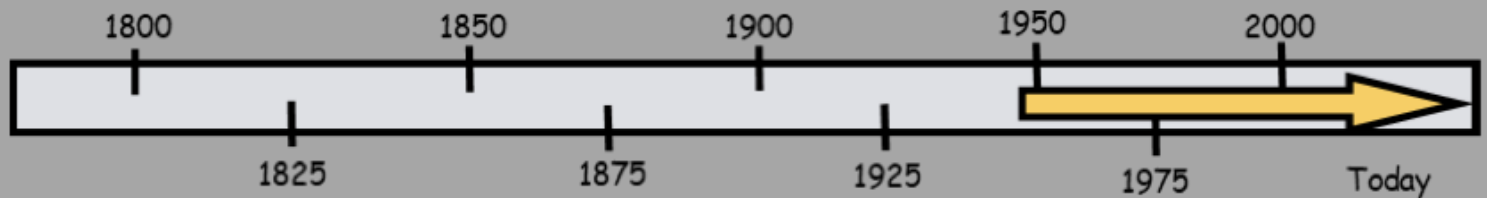
Jobie Arnaituq



"Man and Fish"
1982

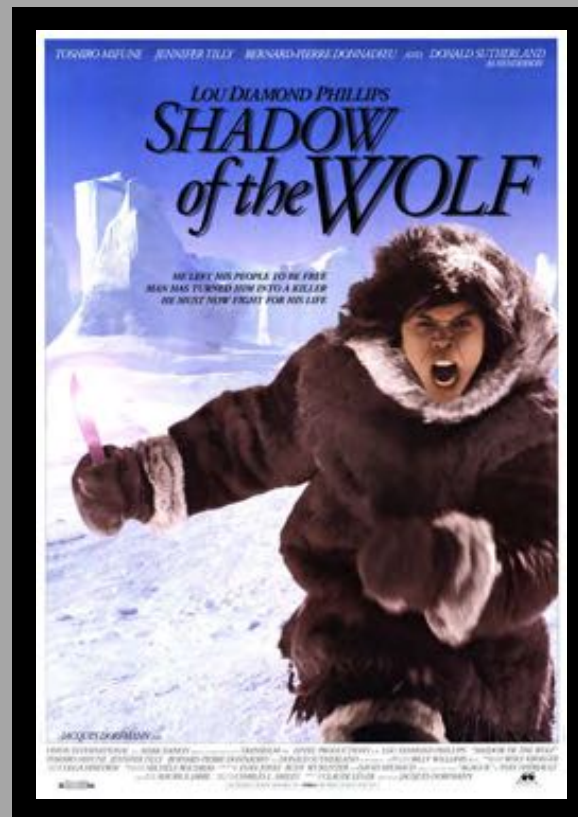


"Untitled"
2006



Fun fact about the artist

Jobie Arnaituq also played a role in the movie "Shadow of the Wolf" ("Agaguk") in 1992, adding acting to his resume.



"Shadow of the Wolf"

1992



Thomassie Kudluk was born in 1910 on the Ungava Peninsula but moved to Kangirsuk when he was a child. Thomassie was a carver and has also made some drawings. His work was humorous and unique. He used grey stone from Kangirsuk and often used shoe polish to paint the carvings. Thomassie's carvings are now held in many public collections throughout Canada and the United States. His work has also been exhibited around the world.

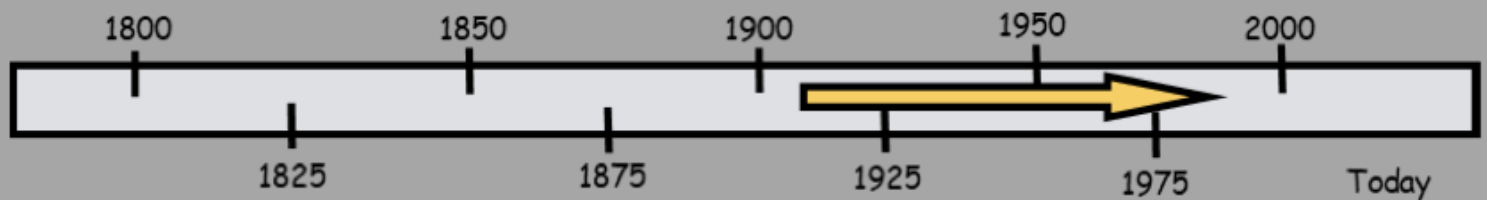
Thomassie Kudluk



"Woman in Traditional Dress"
1977



"Hunting Scenes"
1955



Fun fact about the artist

Thomassie liked to use humour in his carvings and especially in his long descriptive titles.



"That Inuk He Fishes, the Water Is Deep and When the Great Fish Takes the Bait its Power Pulls Him Over and He Bumps His Head on the Wind Break"

1976



Daniel Annanack was born in 1967 in Kangiqsualujjuaq. He started carving at the age of 14 or 15 by watching his father carve. Because of a lack of soapstone around Kangiqsualujjuaq, artists from that community would use caribou antlers, which is the case for Daniel. He likes to carve animals and scenes on antlers using bas-relief (a type of sculpture with less depth than a regular sculpture).

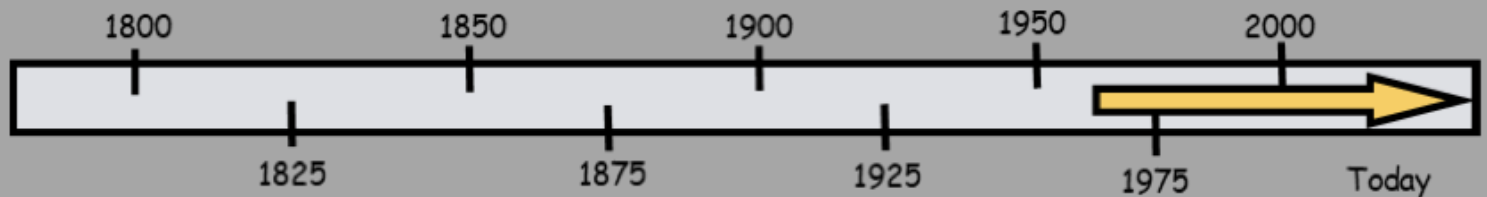
Daniel Annanack



"Pod of Beluga Whales"
n.d.



"Woman Ice Fishing"
n.d.



Fun fact about the artist

Daniel Annanack teaches manual skills to students at Ulluriaq School in Kangiqsualujjuaq.



"Stories on the Land"
n.d.

Peter Morgan

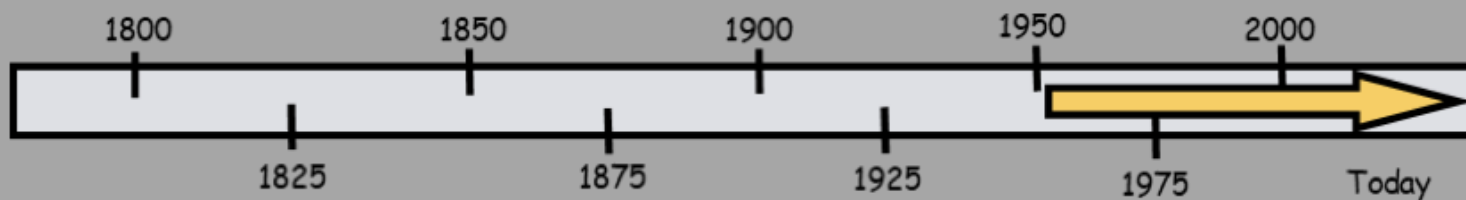
Peter Morgan was born in 1951 and moved to Kangiqsualujjuaq with his family in the late 1950's. He started carving when he was 12 years old by watching his father and was introduced to printmaking by his father-in-law when he was in his 20's. Because of a lack of soapstone on the Ungava coast, Peter started using caribou bone and antlers for his carvings. He also likes to use leather strings, muskox horns, plastic, walrus tusks, baleen and sinew. His themes are often on oral legends, Inuit culture and land aspects. It is possible to find his work in the Winnipeg Art Gallery and in the Canadian Museum of Civilization.



"Bird Feeding Young"
n.d.



"Belugas and Otters Chasing a Fish"
n.d.



Fun fact about the artist

Peter's signature includes 2 footprints of the white-crown sparrow (quputalik), as he liked to watch them when he was a child.



"Untitled"
n.d.





ԵՌՃԾ ԴՐԿՏՐՈՒՄՅԵ
Kativik Ilisarniliriniq