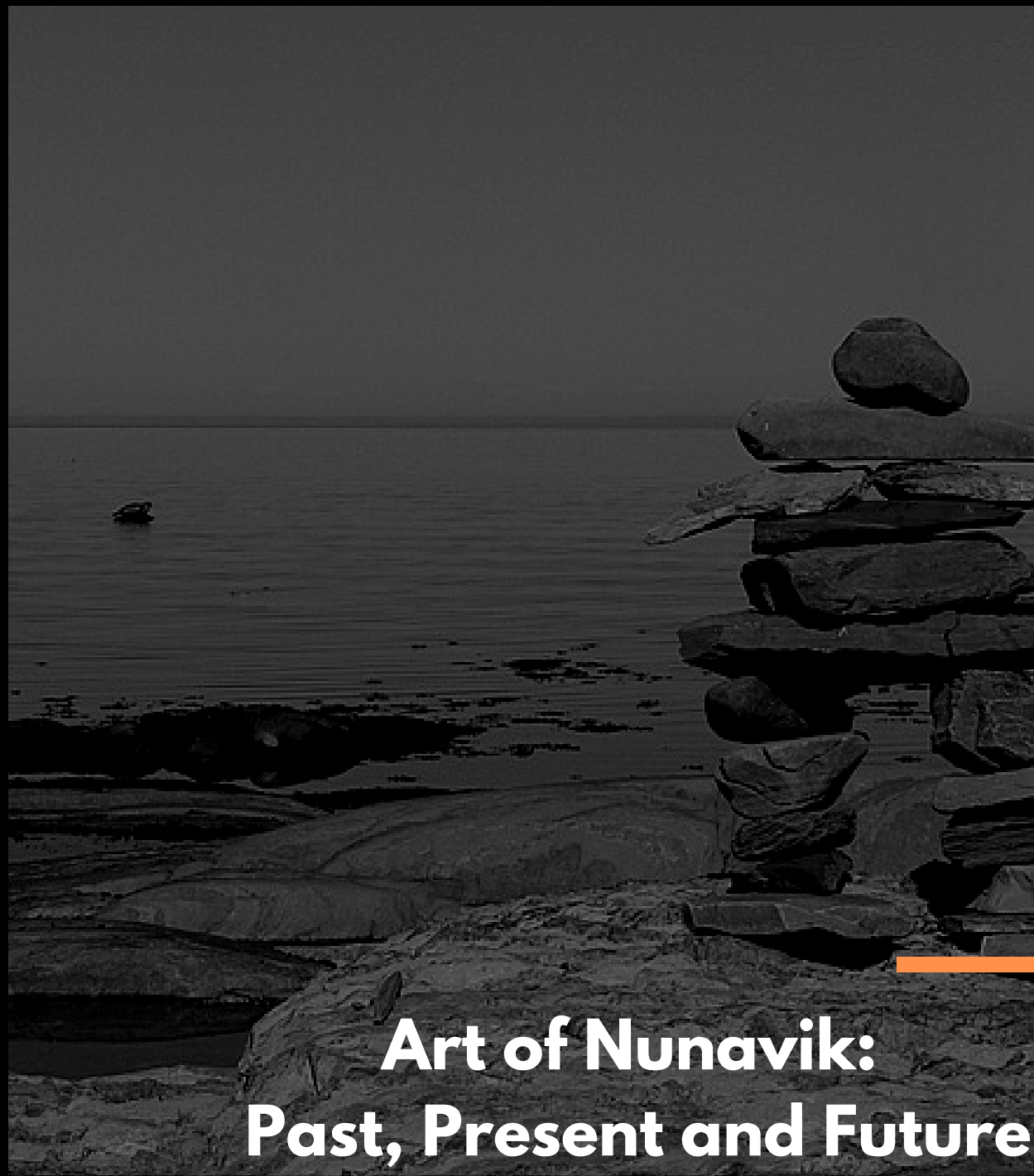


# Beadwork

Information and  
biographies



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

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## The art of beadwork in Nunavik

Since the beginning of time, Inuit have decorated their clothing using different materials and techniques: animal skin fringes, small pieces of bone and ivory, fur appliques, etc.

Later, with the arrival of merchants and trade, Inuit began to adopt different techniques as new materials appeared in the North.



The work of Elisapee Peters, Kuujjuaq

Spoons, pieces of ammunition, coins, wood, lead, brass and beads of different origins began to appear on traditional clothing to decorate coats and outfits. Glass beads were reportedly available as early as 1685, and available at the Fort Churchill trading post; they quickly became popular in the North.

With the sapangait (Ungava Bay) or pilutiit (Hudson Bay) (glass beads), sewers could let their creativity run free by exploring and decorating their clothes. The art of beading quickly became a popular technique for Inuit as a way to personalize clothing. Thus, the technique was integrated into Inuit material culture, with the qalliniit (uppers) on the kamiik and the savviguti (beaded breastplate) on the amauti. In addition to being found on clothing, beadwork quickly found its place and allowed for the decoration of various accessories such as jewelry and bags.



Saviguti made by Ayanaylitok  
1979, Kangiqsualujjuaq

According to Ms. Cencig from Avataq, "old sapangait (glass beads) were found not far from the ancient community of Killiniq, near the tip of Quebec-Labrador, on the JcDe-1 archaeological site: Nunaingok. These beads represent the recent historical period of occupation of this camp which was used by the Inuit and their predecessors, approximately 2500 years ago until the 1950s."

The art of beading is also a way to share, by teaching the technique or learning it, from others, to pass on this art to the next [generations], as a legacy.

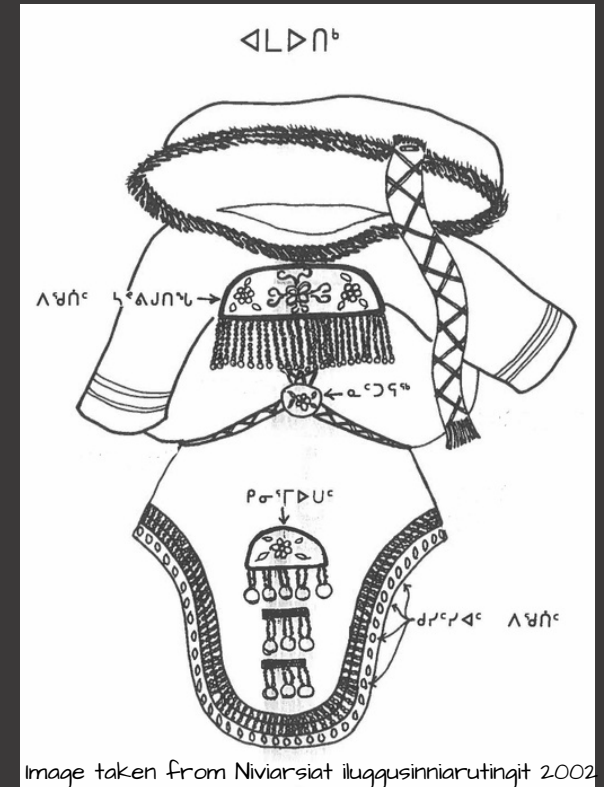


JcDe: Nunaingok, archeological site  
Avataq

"I sometimes go through difficult times and beading brings me a lot of happiness. A lot of joy comes out of creating something beautiful. It is a sort of escape, that allows me to forget my problems. It teaches patience."

-Annie Hickey, Kuujuaq

Here is a picture of an amauti with some vocabulary words of the different beaded parts.



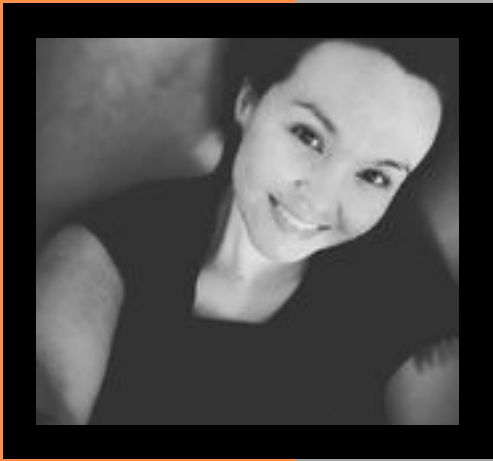
$\Delta L \Delta \Pi^b$  (amauti): Inuit clothing designed to carry a child in the hood

$\Lambda \Psi \dot{\Lambda}^c$  (savvigiuti): Beaded breastplate

$\rho \sigma^c \Gamma \Delta U^c$  (kinirmiutait): Decorative pieces sewn onto the amauti

$\delta \rho^c \rho^c \Delta^c \Lambda^c \dot{\delta} \dot{\Lambda}^c$  (kusitsiat piqutiit): Charms

$\alpha^c \dot{\gamma} \gamma^c \Psi^c$  (natturaq): Loop created from a walrus tusk used to hold the belt in place.



Annie  
Hickey

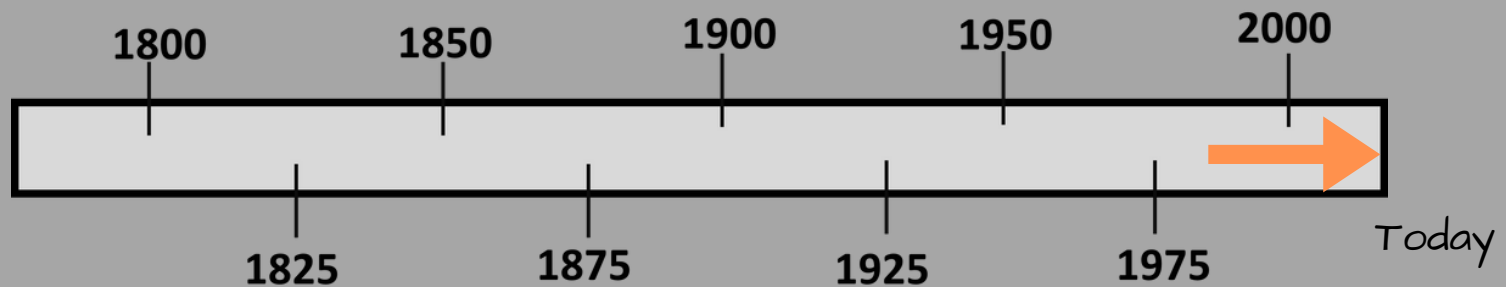
Annie is originally from Kuujuaq and has lived near Montreal for many years. She does beadwork in many different ways, including framed pieces, clothing appliques and jewelry. She sews appliques on pants, toques, headbands, etc. Her pieces of jewelry include necklaces, bracelets and earrings. Annie uses different materials for her beadwork such as beads, felt, thread and canvas to solidify the work. Her favorite themes are northern flowers and animals, butterflies and Inuit tools such as the kakivak and uluk. Annie's work can be seen on her Facebook page, Biuyuk.



"Beaded berries" collection



Headband with kakivak and beaded uluk



## Who inspired the artist?

Many artists inspired Annie to become a beadwork artist herself. These people include her mother Alasie Kenuajuak, Mika Kilabuk, Dorothy Mesher and Julie Grenier.



Beaded necklace

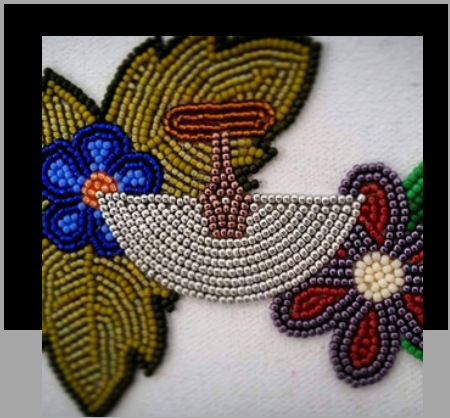
Julie was born in 1979 in Kuujuaq and now lives in Notre-Dame-de-L'Île-Perrot. There is no limit to the techniques she uses and she likes working with different materials according to the latest trend. She does beadwork, knits, makes clothes and so much more. The materials she currently uses are caribou fur and antlers as well as ivory. As for themes, everything that surrounds her, in fact, inspires her. Julie is the artist of the month for May 2021 for Taqitamaat and is recognized for her work as part of the Nunavik Arts Secretariat. It is possible to find a caribou skin amauti (collaboration with Beatrice Deer), sewn in the traditional way in the permanent exhibition at the Musée de l'Homme in Paris and a sealskin arnautik with beading at the IUMA exhibition at the Winnipeg Art Gallery (collaboration with Beatrice Deer); as well as the Avataq collection which includes some of her work. In 2021, Julie Grenier also beaded a garment made by Victoria Okpik for the new Governor General of Canada, Mary Simon.



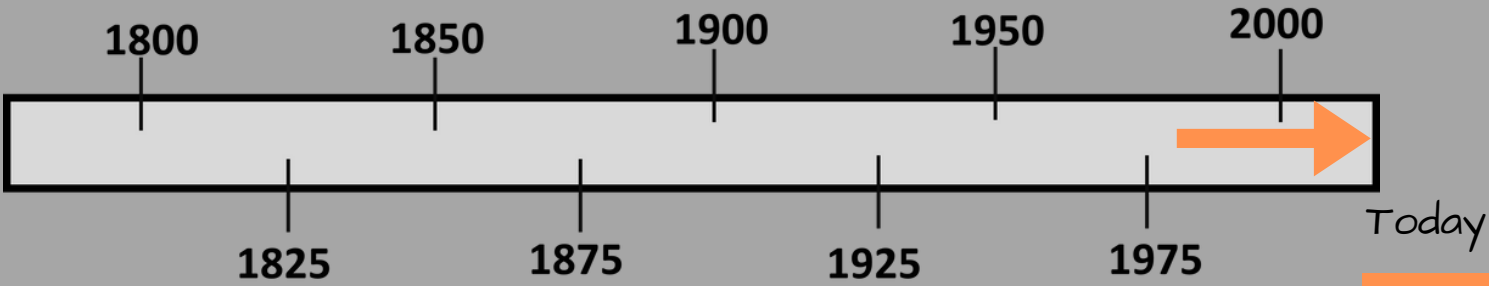
# Julie Grenier



Beaded earrings



Beaded uluk

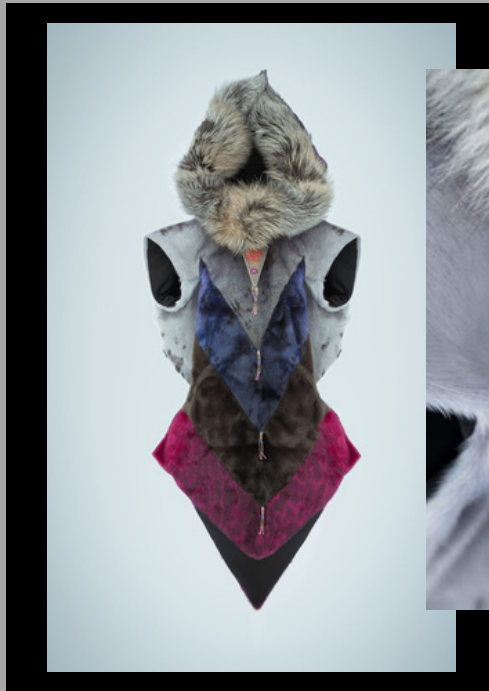




## Who inspired the artist?

"If I have to name just one person, [I would say] Mattiusi Iyaituk. But more than anything, I am always inspired by the Indigenous people of the world; our ancestors, the ancestors of all Indigenous communities."

Julie Grenier

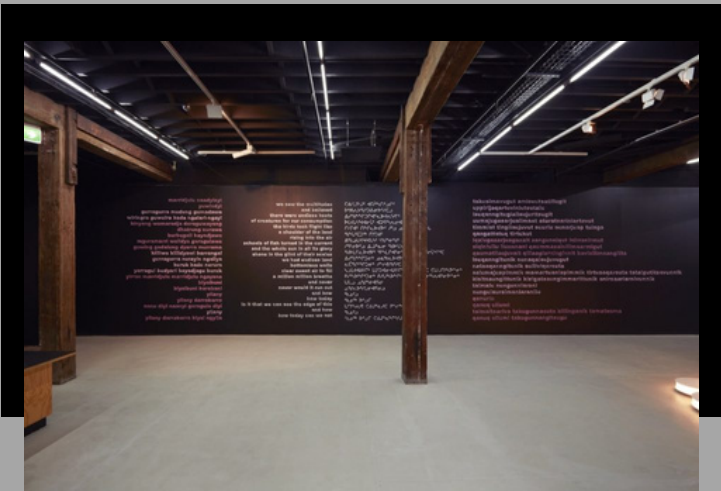


Sealskin arnautik with beading  
in collaboration with Beatrice Deer  
Designed for the INUA Exhibition of Qaumajuq at  
the WAG

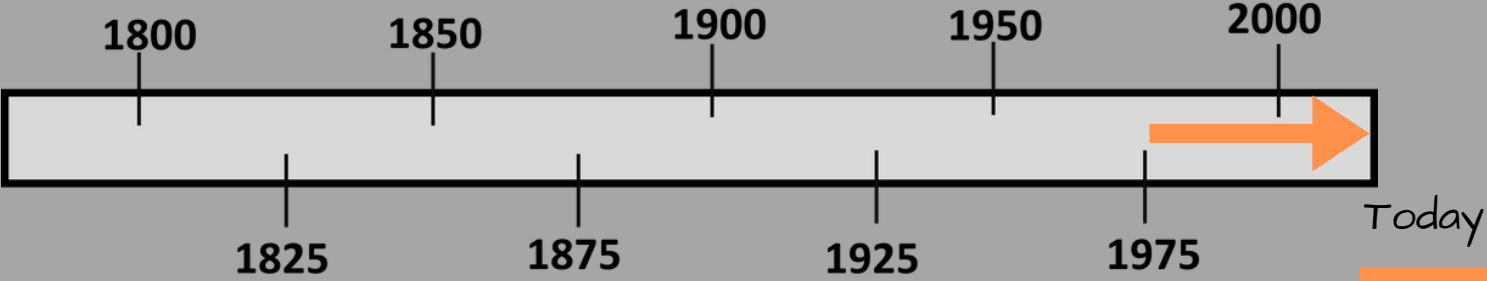


Taqralik was born in 1975 in Kuujuaq and now lives in Ottawa, Ontario. This multidisciplinary artist enjoys using her words to write and recite poetry. When Taqralik does beadwork, she likes to use beads and recycled materials such as coins, hooks and various pieces of fabric. What inspires her work are the questions she has about various issues such as climate change. She also uses her own life experiences and her observations as inspiration. Taqralik created a series of works called Apirsait (the spirits we can call upon to guide us in times of great need). These works were accompanied by a text asking questions about events that were taking place around her at that time. It was possible to view this installation at the 22nd Biennale of Sydney in 2020. Some of Taqralik's work can also be found in the Nunavik Art Collection of the Avataq Cultural Institute and in various exhibitions in Canada and New-Zealand.

# Taqralik Partridge



Parts of the Apirsait installation in Sydney 2020

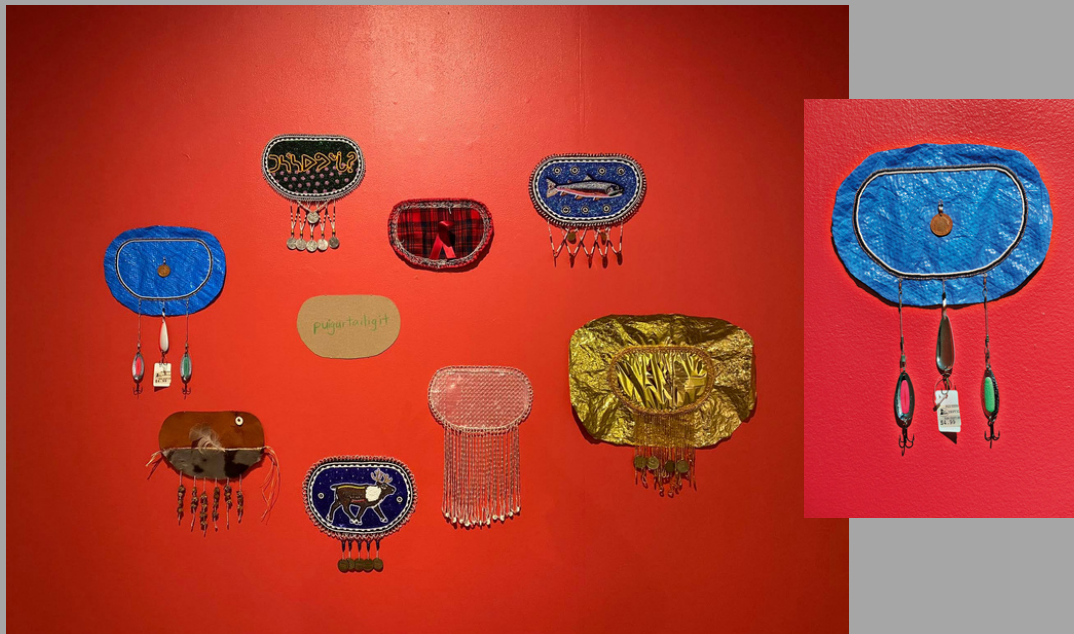


# Quotes from the artist

"I wish I had known just how important my culture classes in school were. I sew and do beadwork because of the skills I learned in those classes, even if I don't make kamituinnak."

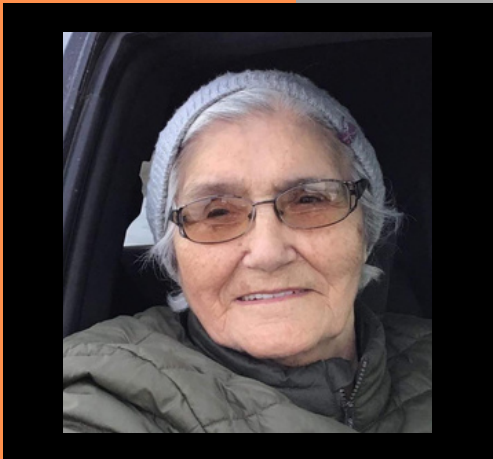
"Give yourself permission to be an artist, even if it doesn't seem like an option on your path. You don't have to be perfect; you can still make art. The world can be a difficult place but if you find the right people to support you, it will get easier. Art can bring people together."

Taqralik Partridge, 2022



Tusarsauvungaa installation  
Exhibition Among All These Tundras, produced by  
Galerie Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery  
2018-2019

Elisapee was born in 1936 in Kuujuaq where she still lives today. She makes slippers and kamiik by inserting a beaded upper (qalliniq). She uses leather to make her kamiik and then uses beads to decorate them. She does not follow a specific theme when she makes her uppers but she does like to make flowers. Elisapee was inspired by her sister Joana, who was always busy sewing something.

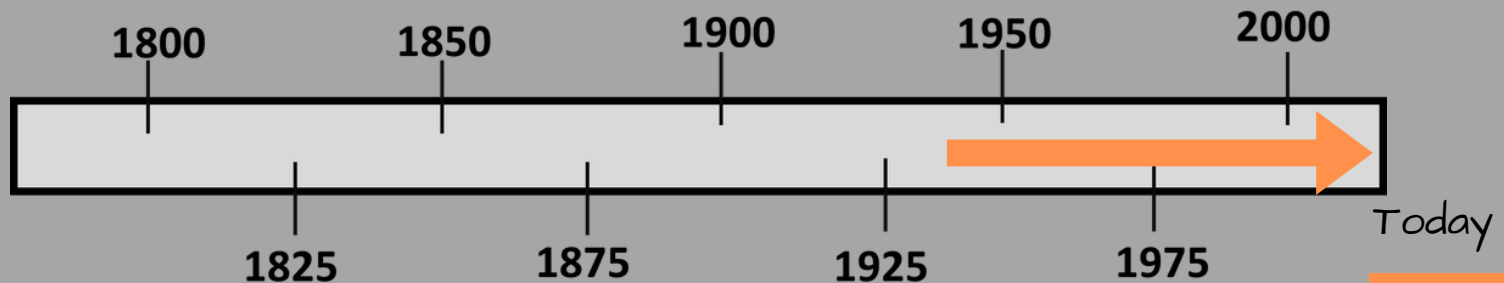


Elisapee  
Peters



Beaded uppers  
(qalliniit)

Slippers with beaded  
uppers (qalliniit)



What would be the best advice for students who want to become artists?

"Never give up, even if your work isn't perfect. Continue to try until you have perfected whatever you are doing and are satisfied with the result."

She would like students to learn from her work, to try to make something easy that will make them want to do more.



Elisapee Peters, 2022

Pair of kamik with beaded uppers  
(qalliniit)

Alacie is an artist born on October 13, 1983 in Kangirsuk, where she still lives today. She likes to make pieces using different techniques including beadwork, drawing (lead pencils, coloured pencils, pen and permanent marker), acrylic and water colour painting, as well as crochet and embroidery. In beading, Alacie creates different accessories such as necklaces, earrings, uppers (qalliniit) and breastplates for amauti (savviguti). When beading uppers, she incorporates many themes, but prefers flowers. Alacie participated in a jewelry making workshop offered by Makivik a couple of years ago, which allowed her to create all kinds of jewelry using her beads.



Alacie  
Lucassie

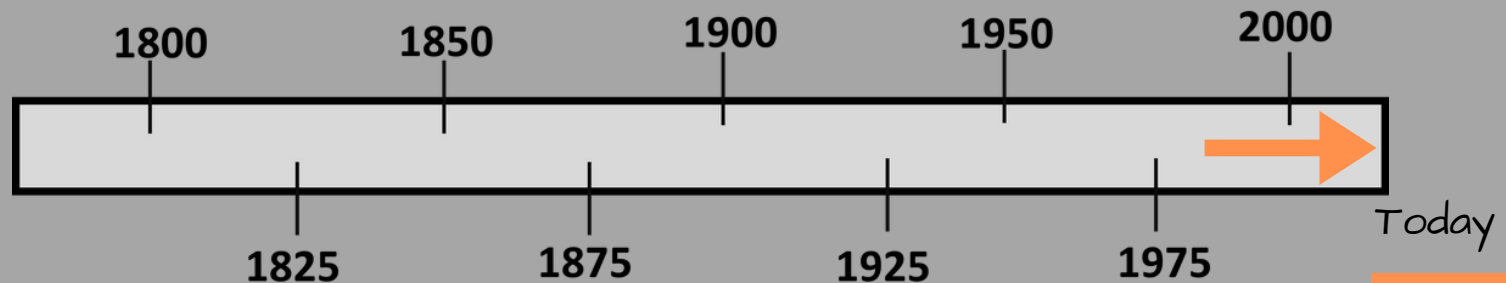
Beaded uppers (qalliniit)



Beaded breastplate (savviguti) for amauti



Beaded earrings



## Who inspired the artist?

As a child, Alacie often watched her mother Victoria Lucassie bead vamps (uppers) and was inspired to do the same. Alacie found a tiny pair of vamps when she was young and she started beading them; her mother kept them as a souvenir.



Uluik made with acrylic paint

Amilia is a beadwork artist born on August 31, 1998 in Kangirsujuaq. She now lives in Montreal. In beading, Amilia makes mostly accessories like earrings and necklaces. She uses a brick stitch, but also fringes. She likes to add unique details to her earrings such as fur pompoms, semi-precious stones and fringes. Amilia is inspired by her Inuit culture and the nature around her, which she always uses as a theme in her designs. In January 2022, Amilia created an Instagram page, Inuk-ful, where you can find her jewelry and clothing creations, as well as those of her sister and mother; it's essentially a page of family creations. You can also find her digital creations (photographs) on the Arctic Guide Instagram page.

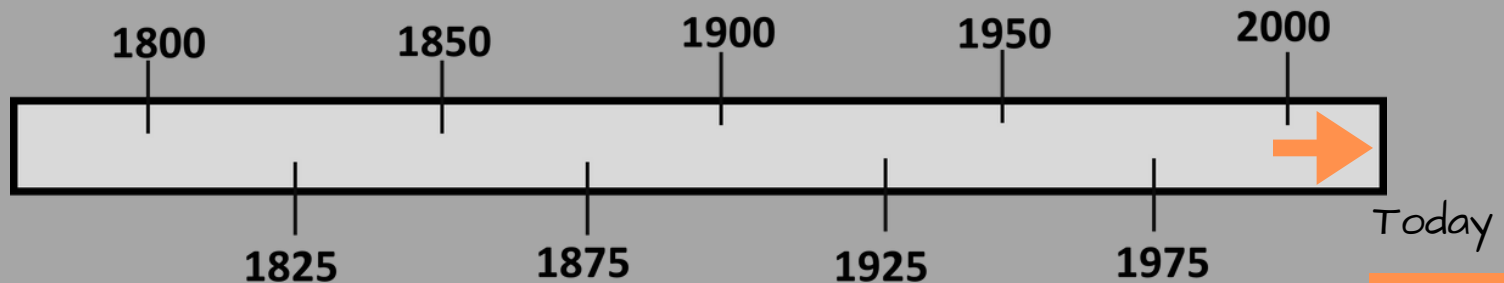


# Amilia Fréchette-Tuniq



Earrings from the "Paurgnait/Berries" collection

Beaded necklace





What would be the best advice for students who want to become artists?

"If you express yourself through your art, your authenticity and uniqueness will shine through."

Amilia Fréchette-Tunig  
2022

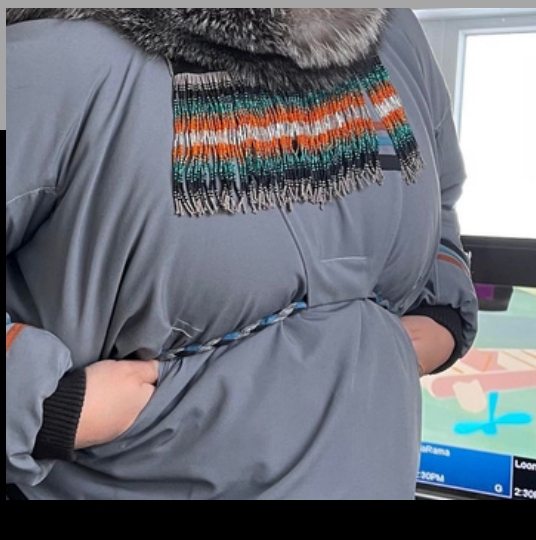


Beaded earrings with fur



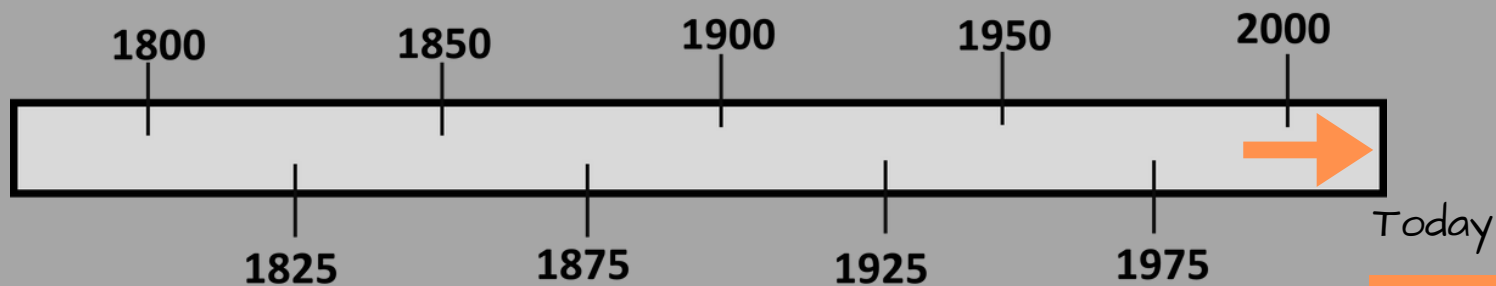
Susie  
Cameron

Susie was born in Salluit on March 1, 1993, where she still lives today. Susie likes to use beads to make earrings with fringes. She also makes breastplates (savviguti) to embellish the front of the amauti. When making earrings, she uses beads, different types of leather and sealskin. The uluk is a theme that she likes to exploit. Susie learned to bead on her own after seeing beaded jewelry that she couldn't afford because they were too expensive. She decided to learn how to make them herself.



Beaded breastplate (savviguti)

Beaded earrings



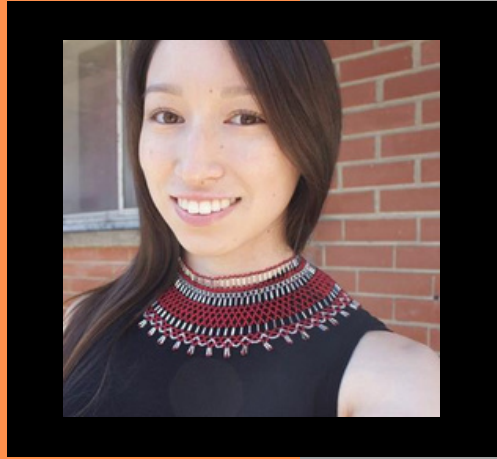
## Quote from the artist

"it is very calming to do beading; you get to disconnect from reality."

Susie Cameron, 2022



Uluk-shaped beaded earrings

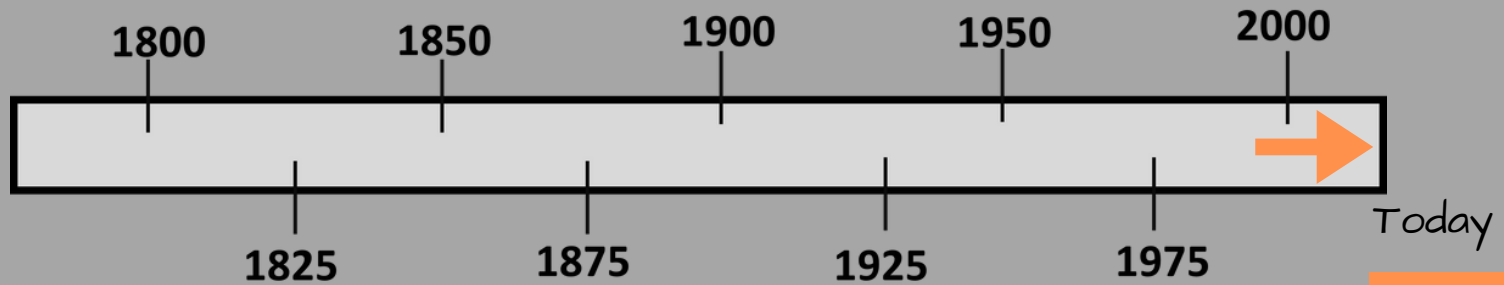


Lydia is a young artist born in Ivujivik in 1994. She currently lives in Montreal. Lydia is an artist who learned how to bead on her own. She incorporates many of the concepts she learned in school during her culture classes and sewing techniques she learned from her mother and her aunt. She makes jewelry, mostly using beading techniques. When Lydia makes earrings, she also uses sealskin and caribou fur. She is inspired by the elements of nature around her (aurora borealis, flowers, animals, etc.) and tools from the Inuit culture, such as uluk. You can find her jewelry on her Instagram page, Anouapik. She also has pieces at the SAW Gallery in Ottawa and is currently working with the Guilde to add her jewelry.

# Lydia Audlaluk



Beaded earrings with sealskin



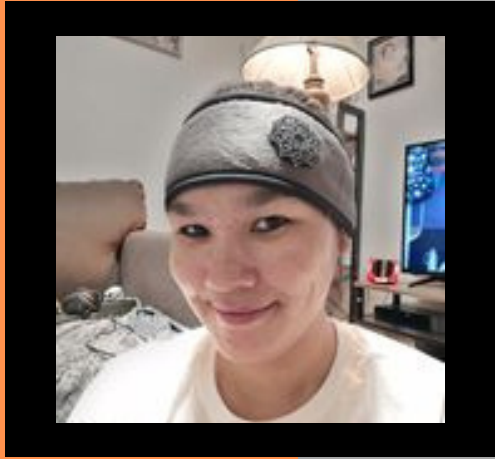
# What would be the best advice for students who want to become artists?

"Don't give up, even if what you are working on is not how you thought it would be. Keep practicing and eventually you will get it right. The first beading project that I did was supposed to be a necklace, but it transformed into a bracelet because it wouldn't bend. You have to practice and improvise when necessary."



Lydia Audlaluk, 2022

Different earrings with integrated sealskin



Louisa  
Assapa

Louisa is a young artist born in 1991 in Puvirnituq and has lived in Inukjuaq since 2011. She uses the theme of flowers and uluk in her beading and prefers to make appliques and then sews them on to different elements - mittens, headbands and purses. Louisa also likes to make accessories such as cardholders with a beaded design. It is possible to find her work on her private Facebook page.



Accessories with beaded flowers



Cardholder with beaded uluk



## Quote from the artist

"Beading helps to calm the mind, as if there is no problem today or tomorrow."

Louisa Assapa, 2021



Beaded flower

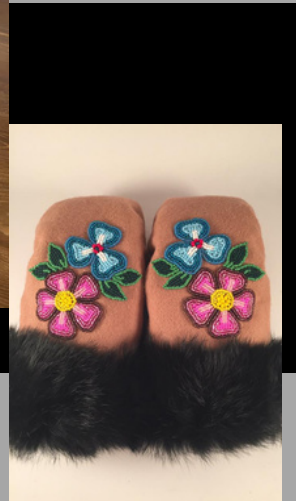
Jeannie was born in April 1981 in Inujuaq. She has been living in Montreal for many years. Jeannie is a beadwork artist who likes to work with different elements such as jewelry, winter clothes, Christmas decorations, and qalliniit (uppers on kamiik and slippers) She is also an excellent sewer and uses her talents to create jackets, snow pants and fur hats. She also makes crochet hats and blankets. This artist much prefers to work on uppers and flower-pattern beadwork. Jeannie also likes to create designs with gradient colours. You can view Jeannie's work on her Facebook page, Kiluit Creations.



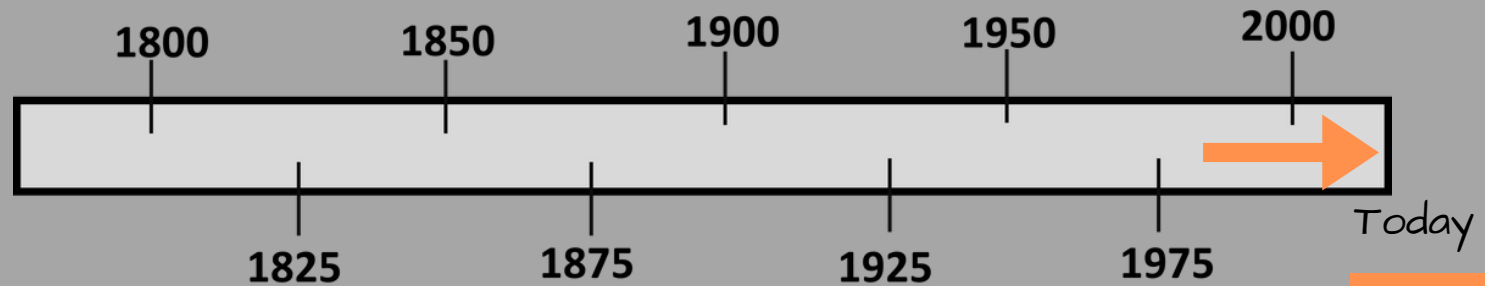
# Jeannie Nayoumealuk



Slippers and pualuuk (mittens)  
with beadwork



Beaded flower





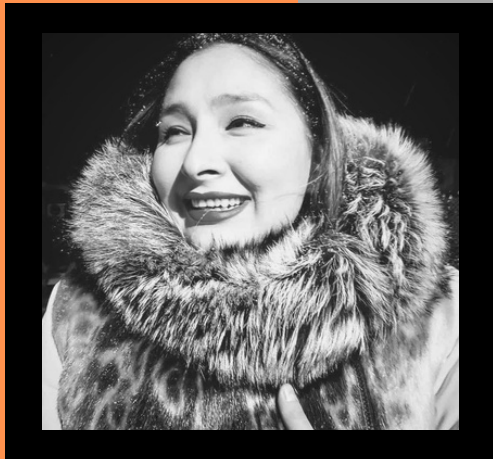
## Quote from the artist

"For as long as I can remember, I have always liked creating, being alone and doing my own thing (colouring). I always had something to do. I was happy to create something with my hands. Creating is my comfort zone, my safety net. I can do it for hours on end. This is an area the students should explore to free their imagination. You have to feed your imagination. Creating has helped me overcome trauma, like my own personal therapy. "



Jeannie Nayoumealuk, 2021

Beaded uppers (qualliniit)



Daphne was born on November 10, 1993, in Kuujjuaraapik, where she still lives today. She makes beaded earrings and also likes to sew jackets with sealskin accents. When she makes earrings, she uses beads, but also fake leather and different findings that she likes to add that give her accessories a unique look. Her new earrings are made of raised beads. Daphne does not have a specific theme that she likes to follow, preferring instead to create according to what she feels and she sees in her imagination. She launched her own business, New Inuk, and it is possible to view her creations on her Facebook page, Daphne's Creations.

Daphne  
Calvin



Beaded earrings with wood inserts



Beaded earrings



# Who inspired the artist?

Daphne was inspired by all Indigenous art that used beadwork around her and wanted to create pieces herself. A couple of years ago, Vivienne Sheshamush, from the community of Whapmagoostui, taught Daphne how to create pieces using beadwork.



Beaded earrings

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ԵՌՃԽ ԴՐԿՏՐՈՄԻ  
Kativik Ilisarniliriniq