

Sale Name: Important Indigenous Fine Art Auction November 6th 2024

LOT 58 - Helen Kalvak - Kidnapping 38/50



Artist Description Helen Kalvak ᑭᐱᑭᐅᑦ (1901 – 1984 Indigenous / CAD) O.C., R.C.A. A Copper Inuit graphic artist from Ulukhaktok (formerly Holman), Northwest Territories, Canada. Kalvak was born at Tahiryuak Lake, on Victoria Island and raised in the Prince Albert Sound area. Her family also spent some time at Minto Inlet. She lived a traditional Inuit lifestyle for most of her life. Her mother was Enataomik. Her father Halukhit encouraged her spiritual gifts and taught her to be an angatkuq (spiritual healer). Although Kalvak later converted to Christianity, she continued to reflect her traditional spirituality in her artwork, along with the stories which she had learned as a child. In 1960, Kalvak moved to Holman (present-day Ulukhaktok) after the sudden death of her husband, Edward Manayok. There in 1961 she helped a Roman Catholic priest, Rev. Henri Tardy, set up the Holman Eskimo Co-op. It was at this time that Kalvak began her artwork. In 1965, her artwork was turned into prints and sold throughout the world. Ten years later, in recognition of her work, Kalvak was inducted into the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts. This was followed in 1978 by her appointment to the Order of Canada. By 1978, Kalvak had produced an estimated 2,000 drawings. She was no longer able to use her hands due to Parkinson's disease. The following year, Canada Post used her work entitled *The Dance* for the 17¢ postage stamp. With 176 published prints, Kalvak is the Ulukhaktok artist with the largest body of published work. At the time of her death in 1984, Kalvak was one of the few remaining Inuit women in Ulukhaktok decorated with traditional beautifying facial tattoos. The school in Ulukhaktok is named after her. *In the print *Kidnapper* (1973), Helen Kalvak portrays Arnakafaluk, the legendary woman who appears out of the sea to kidnap children who wander away from their parents' camp. A recurring theme in her work is the interrelationship between the human and animal worlds. *The Canadian Encyclopedia

Description

Stonecut 38/50 - Holman Co-op 1969

Titled, Numbered, Dated & Signed Across Lower Border

Sheet - 18 ins x 24 ins (45.72 cm x 60.96 cm)

Unframed

Paper: Kozuke Kozo White paper

Provenance:

Holman Ulu

Private Collection

Quantity: 1



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