

Sale Name: Important Cape Dorset Inuit & First Nations Fine Art Auction March 23 2023

LOT 26 - Kananginak Pootoogook - Three Shore Birds 35/50



Artist Description Kananginak Pootoogook ᓕᓕᓕᓕ ᓂᓂᓂᓂ (1935 – 2010 Indigenous/ CAD) R.C.A. Born at a traditional Inuit camp called Ikerasak, near Cape Dorset, Northwest Territories (now Kinngait, Nunavut) to Josephie (Eegyvudluk) Pootoogook, leader of the camp, and Sarah Ningeokuluk. The family lived a traditional lifestyle hunting and trapping while living in an iglu in the winter and a sod house in the summer and did not move into their first southern style house until 1942. In 1957 Pootoogook married Shooyoo, moved to Cape Dorset and began work for James Houston. Originally, Pootoogook did some carving, made prints and lithographs for other artists. At the same time he was a leader in setting up the West Baffin Eskimo Co-operative (WBEC), the first Inuit owned co-op, now part of the Arctic Co-operatives Limited and served from 1959 until 1964 as the president. Although Kananginak had worked with his father, Josephie, in 1959, it was not until the 1970s that Kananginak began work as a full-time artist producing drawings, carvings and prints. In 1977 he cut 13 original blocks for prints that were used exclusively for the first WBEC calendar that was issued in a limited edition of 500. According to Terry Ryan, former Co-op manager, Pootoogook was both influenced by and an admirer of the works of his uncle, photographer and historian Peter Pitseolak. The inukshuk at Rideau Hall created by artist Kananginak Pootoogook for former Governor General of Canada, Roméo LeBlanc, for National Aboriginal Day, unveiled on 21 June 1997. The World Wildlife Fund released a limited edition set in 1977 that included four of Pootoogook's images and in 1980 he was elected to the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts. In 1997 Pootoogook built a 1.8 m (6 ft) inukshuk in Cape Dorset for former Governor General of Canada, Roméo LeBlanc. The inukshuk was dismantled and shipped to Ottawa and with the assistance of his son, Johnny, it was rebuilt at Rideau Hall and unveiled on 21 June, National Aboriginal Day. Pootoogook had several exhibitions and showings of his work. In 2010, he went to Vancouver for the 2010 Winter Olympics and to open a

showing of his work at the Marion Scott Gallery. He also had a showing of his work, his first solo exhibition at a public institution, at the Museum of Inuit Art in Toronto from February to May 2010. He also received a 2010 National Aboriginal Achievement Award in the arts category from the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation. While working on his final, and unfinished, drawing of a Peterhead boat owned by his father, he was struck by coughing spells, which he declared was cancer. Along with his wife, Shooyoo, he flew to Ottawa, staying at the Larga Baffin home, and was diagnosed with lung cancer. In October 2010, he underwent surgery and did not recover.

Description

Stonecut 35/50 - Dorset 1988

Titled, Numbered, Dated & Signed Across Lower Border

Sheet - 21.5 ins x 28 ins (54.61 cm x 71.1 cm)

Unframed

Paper: Natural Unbleached

Provenance:

Private Collection

Quantity: 1



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