

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

LOT 83 - Benjamin Chee Chee - Mountain Sheep 74/150



Artist Description Benjamin Chee Chee Kenneth Thomas Chee Chee (1944 – 1977 CAD) Ojibwa, CAD Chee Chee's first exhibition was held in 1973 at the University of Ottawa. Soon after he gained fame as he developed his unique style of clear graceful lines and minimal colour, depicting birds and animals. Though his art featured a great deal of iconography often used by Canadian First Nations artists, Chee Chee had denied his art had symbolic meaning. He instead referred to the animals featured in his art as "creatures of the present". He also specifically referred to himself as an Ojibway artist, as opposed to allowing himself to be categorized under the broader net of simply an "Indian" artist. Mentioned in Canada's Parliament & House of Commons by

MP Robert-Falcon Ouellette in a tribute to the artist about his influence. Ouellette said "Let us also recognize one of the finest artists of Canada, Benjamin Chee Chee. He always refused to be an indigenous artist; he was a proud Anishnabeg. He drew simple lines, usually acrylic on paper. Highly influential in his time, he said he did not paint the past but the present, the living of today. We can see his works, like the flock of four geese. They represent the four directions of the unborn, the youth, the adults and the elders all moving in the same direction. Even though he died in tragedy and is buried in Ottawa, far from his land and people, he still inspires today."

Description

Limited Edition Print 74/150

Titled Lower Left, Numbered Lower Middle, Signed Lower Right

Sight - 17 ins x 14 ins (43.18 cm x 35.56 cm)

Framed Under Glass

Provenance:

Private Collection

Quantity: 1



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