

**Sale Name:** Important Indigenous Fine Art Auction Sept. 6th 2023

**LOT 10 - Josephie Pootoogook - Joyfully I See Ten Caribou 27/50**



**Artist Description** Josephie Pootoogook ኃላ ᐅᓂᓂ (1887 – 1958 Indigenous/CAD) A well-respected camp leader Josephie Pootoogook married to Ningeookaluk, brother of Peter Pitseolak, half brother of Eleeshushe, father of Kananginak, Egeyudluk, Paulassie, Pudlat, and Solomonie Pootoogook. The record price for this artist at auction is \$11,947 USD for Joyfully I See Ten Caribou in 2016. In a 1972 interview published in Canadian Forum, Pootoogook's son Kananginak said they considered this work their first successful print. Kananginak Pootoogook was also one of the early participants in the Cape Dorset print program who worked with James Houston to translate his father Joseph's drawings into print. Pootoogook was approached by James Houston to gain community support for the budding printmaking program in Kinngait. Fifteen of the forty prints in the 1959 collection were based on designs by these two artists. In an article in the Summer 1975 edition of Canadian Forum, Dorothy Eber described that the printmakers Osuitok Ipeelee, Kananginak Pootoogook and Iyola Kingwatsiak "all gave colourful accounts of what they claimed was the first print, Joyfully I See Ten Caribou, a combination lino cut and stencil". That claim has since been disputed but the print still stands as one of the finest and enduring icons of the inaugural Cape Dorset collection. Here, warm grey stenciled areas denote the man's parka and frame the dense black linocut elements that describe the hunter's friendly and confident visage. We are captivated by his smiling eyes and carefully delineated toothy grin. The emphatic gesture of his hands, a signal to his fellow hunters that he has spotted caribou, are turned out to expose his palm lines, which beautifully mimic the shapes of antlers.

### Description

*Lino Cut & Stencil 27/50 - Cape Dorset - Baffin Island 1959*

Titled, Numbered, Dated & Signed Across Lower Border

Sheet - 12 ins x 18 ins (30.48 cm x 45.72 cm)

Unframed

Paper: Natural Unbleached

Provenance:

Private Collection

**Quantity: 1**



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