



# ESKIMO ART CATALOGUE



CANADA

*An Exhibition of  
ESKIMO ART  
arranged between the  
Canadian Government  
and the Australian State Galleries  
March to October 1964*



## INTRODUCTION

The Canadian Government is pleased to have the opportunity, with the co-operation and help of the Australian State art galleries, to bring to the Australian public a collection of Eskimo carvings.

The Eskimo people are one of the most widely distributed races on earth. Their prehistoric nomadic wanderings have scattered them halfway around the globe, from north-east Asia across arctic America to Greenland. Excavations of their early dwellings show us that, running parallel with the development of their beautifully functional tools, they have at all times felt the need to create artistic objects expressing their feelings about the wonder of existence, their religion and life around them.

Their art has taken three predominant forms: the plastic art of stone and ivory carving, the art of incised drawings on stone and bone, and the skin *appliqué* (the cutting out and intricate marrying of

dark- and light-coloured skins to form patterns for the decoration of their clothing).

Traditionally, hunting is fundamental to the Eskimo's way of life and his art is closely bound up with his attitude toward the creatures on which his existence has, until the recent past, depended. A vital interest in their movements has sharpened his observation of their forms. He carves from his own experience of them, their bulk and weight. This understanding, on which he has depended for his success in hunting, he uses to shape his material towards the same end — to gain power over the animal itself, or symbolically, over its image. This magical approach to his art and his ability to focus on the essential quality of his subject, to achieve simplification almost to the point of abstraction, gives tremendous force to the work of the Eskimo artist.

It is hoped that this exhibition will give Australians a chance to see for themselves something of the unique stone art of the Eskimos.

## Catalogue

- 1 Standing Bear eating Fish**  
by Putagook, Cape Dorset, 1955.  
Dark grey soapstone, 10" H  
attached to wooden stand.
- 2 Man's Head**  
artist unknown, Cape Dorset,  
1956.  
Green stone mottled black,  
5½" H, 3½" W.
- 3 Akpa (?)**  
artist unknown, Cape Dorset,  
1956.  
Grey stone mottled light grey,  
ivory eyes (?) missing, 7½" H.
- 4 Sculpin**  
artist unknown, Cape Dorset,  
1956.  
Black stone, greyish and mottled  
in several places, 2½" H, 7" L.
- 5 Arctic Hare**  
artist unknown, Cape Dorset,  
1956.  
Black soapstone mottled  
greenish, 1½" H, 3" L.
- 6 Head of Woman and Bird**  
on base, artist unknown, Cape  
Dorset, 1956.  
With wooden peg, 5½" H,  
base 4" L, 2½" W.
- 7 King's Head**  
artist unknown, Cape Dorset,  
1956.  
Dark green mottled stone,  
4½" H, 3½" W.
- 8 Bird**  
artist unknown, Cape Dorset,  
1956.  
Dark grey mottled soapstone,  
1½" H, 10¼" L.
- 9 Bust of Woman**  
artist unknown, Cape Dorset,  
1956.  
Dark stone mottled light brown,  
4½" H.
- 10 Bear Sitting**  
artist unknown, Cape Dorset,  
1956.  
Very dark grey mottled soap-  
stone, 4½" H.
- 11 Woman and Child**  
artist unknown, Cape Dorset,  
1956.  
Very dark grey soapstone, 10¼" H.
- 12 Standing Woman**  
by Labita, Cape Dorset, 1957.  
Black stone mottled grey, 8¼" H.
- 13 Kneeling Woman**  
by Stanik, Cape Dorset, 1957.  
Dark stone, 4½" H, 6½" L.
- 14 Woman**  
by Josephie, Cape Dorset, 1957.  
Grey soapstone mottled light  
brown, 9" H, 6" W, 2" D.
- 15 Fox**  
by Josephie, Cape Dorset, 1957.  
Dark grey veined stone, 5¼" L.
- 16 Bird on Bear's Head**  
by Toonco, Cape Dorset, 1957.  
Dark grey soapstone carved light  
grey, 5¼" H.
- 17 Seal on Ivory Plaque**  
by Shuceeger, Cape Dorset, 1957.  
Seal of black stone mottled grey,  
3½" H, 4½" L.
- 18 Rabbit**  
by Ne vessie, Cape Dorset, 1957.  
Dark stone mottled grey,  
6½" H, 7" L.
- 19 Standing Man**  
artist unknown, Cape Dorset,  
1957.  
Dark grey soapstone mottled  
brown, 14½" H.
- 20 Woman and Child**  
by Kecholook, Cape Dorset,  
1957.  
Very dark grey soapstone, 4½" H.
- 21 Fish**  
by Etougot, Cape Dorset, 1957.  
Black stone, 3" L.
- 22 Woman Sitting**  
artist unknown, Cape Dorset,  
1957.  
Very dark grey soapstone, 9½" H.
- 23 Bird**  
by Towkie, Cape Dorset, 1957.  
Dark grey soapstone, mottled  
light grey, 4½" H, 5½" L.
- 24 Dog with Pack**  
by Niarassic, Cape Dorset, 1957.  
Black soapstone mottled grey,  
3" H, 7¼" L.
- 25 Man and Seal**  
by Kotuk, Cape Dorset, 1958.  
Light grey mottled soapstone,  
7¾" H.
- 26 Man**  
by Kotuk, Cape Dorset, 1958.  
Dark stone mottled grey, 11½" H.
- 27 Woman and Two Children**  
artist unknown, Cape Dorset,  
1960.  
Green serpentine, 8" H, 8¼" W.
- 28 Small Woman**  
by Hanu, Ivuyivik.  
Grey soapstone, 3¼" H, 2¼" W.
- 29 Small Seal**  
artist unknown, Lake Harbour,  
1957.  
Green serpentine, 1¼" H, 3¼" L.
- 30 Head of Bear**  
artist unknown, Lake Harbour,  
1956.  
Dark green veined stone, 1¼" H.
- 31 Sea Spirit**  
artist unknown, Lake Harbour,  
1955.  
Dark stone, body mottled green,  
two sections, head joined to body  
by wooden peg, 3¼" L, 3" H.
- 32 Head**  
artist unknown, Lake Harbour,  
1956.  
Dark green veined serpentine,  
2½" H.
- 33 Small Walrus**  
artist unknown, Lake Harbour,  
1956.  
Light green serpentine, two ivory  
tusks, 1¾" H, 2¼" L.
- 34 Seal**  
by Vepiande, Lake Harbour,  
1957.  
Light green veined serpentine,  
3¼" L.
- 35 Bear's Head**  
by Koolootuk, Lake Harbour,  
1957.  
Light green veined stone, 1½" H.
- 36 Man Kneeling**  
artist unknown, Lake Harbour,  
1958.  
Green serpentine, 4½" H, 2¼" W.
- 37 Standing Bear**  
by Kingalik, Port Harrison, 1954.  
Dark green stone, brown veins,  
2¼" H, 4" L.
- 38 Ptarmigan**  
artist unknown, Port Harrison,  
1960.  
Dark green veined stone, 9" H.
- 39 Fish**  
by Kasudluak, Port Harrison,  
1957.  
Dark green stone, 2½" H, 4½" L.
- 40 Standing Bird**  
by Tooki, Port Harrison, 1957.  
Grey stone, oiled, 3¼" H.
- 41 Otter**  
by Kasudluak, Port Harrison,  
1957.  
Dark green veined stone, 6¼" L.
- 42 Bear**  
by Simonee, Port Harrison, 1957.  
Dark grey stone mottled light  
grey, 7" H.



- 43 Walrus**  
by Meoxsic, Port Harrison, 1957.  
Two ivory tusks. Veined serpentine. 2½" H, 5½" L, 2½" D.
- 44 Bear Sitting**  
by N. Tooki, Port Harrison, 1957.  
Black soapstone. 6½" H.
- 45 Bird (Canada Goose)**  
by Amudluk, Port Harrison, 1957.  
Black soapstone. 3½" H, 3½" L.
- 46 Fish**  
by Pauloosie, Port Harrison, 1957.  
Serpentine. 2½" H, 4½" L.
- 47 Bird**  
by Pauloosie, Port Harrison, 1957.  
Dark green veined stone. 3½" H.
- 48 Bird**  
artist unknown, Port Harrison, 1957.  
Very dark green stone with brown veins. 1½" H, 2½" L.
- 49 Man at Seal Hole**  
by Willie, Port Harrison, 1958.  
Dark grey stone, mottled darker on man, babiche line, ivory harpoon, soapstone base, wooden peg. 8½" H, 4½" L, 3" W.
- 50 Flying Owl**  
by Willie, Port Harrison, 1958.  
Owl of black stone with green veins. 8½" L, 9" W.
- 51 Seal**  
by Moses, Port Harrison, 1958.  
Black stone. 4" L.
- 52 Seal**  
by Rosudmuk, Port Harrison, 1958.  
Black stone. 2½" H, 6½" L.
- 53 Man and Float**  
by Byomslook, Port Harrison, 1955.  
Soapstone. 7" H, 4½" D, 6½" L.
- 54 Man Fishing**  
by Salassie, Port Harrison, 1958.  
Soapstone. 6½" H, 6" W.
- 55 Sitting Bear**  
by Ali Aupaluktuk, Povungnituk, 1954.  
Light green stone, veined. 3½" H.
- 56 Crawling Man**  
by Sheroapik, Povungnituk, 1955.  
Soapstone with ivory spear attached by string. 14" L, 4½" H.
- 57 Standing Bear**  
artist unknown, Povungnituk, 1955.  
Grey soapstone. 4" H, 7½" L.
- 58 Bear and Seal on Ice Pan**  
artist unknown, Povungnituk, 1957.  
Dark grey mottled stone. 10" L, 7" W, 3½" H.
- 59 Man Snow-blind**  
artist unknown, Povungnituk, 1956.  
Soapstone. 4½" H, 8" L, 5½" D.
- 60 Bird**  
by Sheeguakit, Povungnituk, 1957.  
Grey soapstone. 2½" H, 4½" L.
- 61 Owl**  
on small base, by Josie, Povungnituk, 1957.  
Green veined stone. 3½" H.
- 62 Man Sitting on Sled**  
by Marassu, Povungnituk, 1957.  
Soapstone. 5½" H, 6½" L, 3½" D.
- 63 Loon**  
by Lacassie, Povungnituk, 1958.  
Grey soapstone. 16½" L.
- 64 Bird**  
on small stand, by Josjuk, Povungnituk, 1958.  
Grey soapstone. 4" H, 5½" L.
- 65 Caribou**  
by Aeuliak, Povungnituk, 1960.  
Black stone, two bone antlers. 5½" H, 7" L.
- 66 Fish**  
by Nulussie, Povungnituk, 1960.  
Soapstone. 3½" H, 7½" L.
- 67 Fish**  
on stand, by Sala, Richmond Gulf, 1954.  
Dark green veined stone. 4" H, 7" L.
- 68 Man with Mask**  
by Kowoarlik, Sleeper Islands, 1954.  
Man in green veined serpentine. 3" H, 6½" W.  
Mask made from ivory. 1½" L.
- 69 Woman with Braids**  
artist unknown, Sugluk, 1955.  
Light grey soapstone. 7" H.
- 70 Standing Man**  
by Gaae (blind), Sugluk, 1957.  
Rough brown stone mottled grey and black with several natural incrustations. 7½" H.
- 71 Woman Sewing**  
by Puppigattok, Sugluk, 1957.  
Grey soapstone. Ivory needle and thong. 5½" W, 7½" L.
- 72 Seated Woman**  
by Althen, Sugluk, 1957.  
Light grey soapstone. 8" H, 8" D, 4½" W.
- 73 Otter**  
artist unknown, Sugluk, 1957.  
Black stone. 4½" L.
- 74 Man Kneeling**  
by Kytuk, Sugluk, 1957.  
Grey soapstone, ivory knife. 5½" H.
- 75 Seal**  
by Isaac, Sugluk, 1957.  
Grey soapstone. 4½" L.
- 76 Woman and Child**  
by Sarah, Sugluk, 1958.  
Light grey soapstone. 8½" H.
- 77 Woman with Child on Back**  
by Kopatik, Sugluk, 1958.  
Grey soapstone, base missing. 6½" H.
- 78 Otter**  
artist unknown, provenance unknown, 1955.  
Green veined stone. 6½" L.
- 79 Diving Seal**  
artist unknown, provenance unknown, 1956.  
Grey soapstone. 1½" H, 3½" L.
- 80 Seal Emerging**  
artist unknown, provenance unknown.  
Light grey stone. 3" L.
- 81 Man Standing**  
artist unknown, provenance unknown, 1956.  
Grey soapstone mottled brown. 3½" H.
- 82 Seal on Back**  
artist unknown, provenance unknown, 1956.  
Dark green-black stone. 5½" L.
- 83 Smiling Man**  
artist unknown, provenance unknown.  
Black stone, ivory knife and paddle. 6" H.
- 84 Man with Knife**  
artist unknown, provenance unknown, 1956.  
Dark green stone with ivory face, knife missing. 5½" H.
- 85 Man cutting Seal**  
artist and provenance unknown, 1955.  
7½" L, 4½" H.

