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## **ANNIE POOTOOGOOK**

Born: 1969                      Female

Community: Cape Dorset

Drawings, Prints

Annie Pootoogook began drawing in 1997 under the encouragement of the West Baffin Eskimo Cooperative in Cape Dorset. She quickly developed a preference for drawing scenes from her own life, and has become a prolific graphic artist in the intervening years. In 2003, Annie's first print was released: an etching and aquatint drawn by the artist on a copper plate. The image, titled "Interior and Exterior," is a memory of the artist's childhood, lovingly recording the particulars of settlement life in Cape Dorset in the 1970s.

Annie is the daughter of Napachie and Eegyvudluk Pootoogook, and the granddaughter of renowned artist Pitseolak Ashoona. When Pitseolak was bedridden in her final years, her granddaughter visited and watched her work; the senior artist told young Annie that some day she too would draw. Annie also notes that she has been influenced artistically by her mother's graphics and the detailed drawings and prints of her uncle, Kananginak Pootoogook.

Generally, Annie prefers to work alone at home. She approaches each drawing systematically, beginning with outlines in graphite before working up details in black ink and finishing with increasingly bold areas of coloured pencil. Her most recent drawings have employed shading to render forms more solidly in space.

Annie's artworks challenge conventional expectations of 'Inuit' art. Her subjects are not Arctic animals or scenes of nomadic existence from a time before settlement life; rather, her images reflect her experiences as a female artist living and working in contemporary Canada. Like her grandmother Pitseolak before her, Annie is an instinctive chronicler of her times. She fills her domestic interiors with details such as clocks and calendars, as well as graduation photos, inspirational quotes, and inuktitut messages taped to the fridge in modern Inuit kitchens. Amongst meticulous depictions of modern outpost camp life and scenes peopled by local Cape Dorset personalities, Annie's graphics are peppered with images of ATM cash machines, Playboy-style eroticism, the social services office, spousal abuse and the Iraqi war on television. The death of her mother, Napachie, has recently led Annie to create a new series of soul-searching drawings reflecting on death and personal spirituality.

**SOLO EXHIBITIONS:**

- January 2007      Annie Pootoogook  
Illingworth Kerr Gallery, Alberta College of Art and Design,  
Calgary, Alberta (illustrated catalogue)
- June 2006      Annie Pootoogook  
Power Plant, Toronto, Ontario (illustrated catalogue)
- June 2006      Annie Pootoogook – Reflections  
Feheley Fine Arts, Toronto, Ontario
- May –  
June 2003      Moving Forward: Works on Paper by Annie Pootoogook  
Feheley Fine Arts, Toronto, Ontario  
(illustrated brochure)

**GROUP EXHIBITIONS:**

- September –  
November 2008      Burning Cold  
Oakville Galleries at Centennial Square, Oakville, Ontario
- June –  
September 2007      Documenta 12  
Kassel, Germany  
(illustrated catalogue)
- June –  
July 2007      3Cousins  
Annie Pootoogook · Shuvinai Ashoona · Siassie Kenneally  
Feheley Fine Arts, Toronto, Ontario (illustrated brochure)
- December 2006      Ashoona: Third Wave  
Art Gallery of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta
- November 2005      Unique Visions  
Feheley Fine Arts, Toronto, Ontario
- June-July 2005      Windows on Kinngait: The Drawings of Napachie Pootoogook and Annie  
Pootoogook  
Feheley Fine Arts, Toronto, Ontario (illustrated brochure)
- May 2002      The Unexpected  
Feheley Fine Arts, Toronto, Ontario

**HONOURS AND ACHIEVEMENTS:**

- 2007      Invited to exhibit at Documenta 12 in Kassel, Germany

- 2007 Selected as a feature artist for the 2007 Montreal Biennale
- November 2006 Winner of the 2006 Sobey Art Award
- 2006 “35/36” and “Pitseolak’s Glasses” were released. Etching and Aquatint, editions of 50, printed by Studio PM in Montreal, commissioned by Feheley Fine Arts in Toronto.
- Summer 2006 Travelled to Aberdeen, Scotland to participate as an Artist in Residence in *Artists at Glenfiiddich 2006*
- May 2003 First print by Annie Pootoogook, “Interior and Exterior” released concurrent with her first solo exhibition. Published in a special release by Dorset Fine Arts. Etching and Aquatint, edition of 50, printed by Studio PM in Montreal, commissioned by Feheley Fine Arts in Toronto.
- May 2003 Annie traveled to Toronto to attend the opening of her first solo exhibition, “Moving Forward: Works on Paper by Annie Pootoogook” at Feheley Fine Arts.

**SELECTED REFERENCES:**

Documenta Kassel 16/06 – 23/09 2007, Exhibition Catalogue, Kassel, 2007.

Baerwaldt, Wayne, Nancy Campbell, Deborah Root. Annie Pootoogook. Calgary: Alberta College of Art and Design, 2007.

Milroy, Sarah. “Inuit Art Loses the Ookpik.” The Globe and Mail, 5 July 2006, R1+.

Whyte, Murray. “Northern Art Without Artifice: Artist depicts the pain and tedium of everyday life.” The Toronto Star, 25 June 2006.

Feheley Fine Arts, “Annie Pootoogook: Reflections”, Exhibition Brochure, Toronto: Feheley Fine Arts, 2006.

The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery, “Annie Pootoogook”, Exhibition Catalogue, Toronto: The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery, 2006.

Annie Pootoogook “Watching the Iraqi War on TV” (2003), image reproduction in *The Walrus*, December/January 2005.

James Sinclair, “Breaking New Ground: The Graphic Work of Shuvinai Ashoona, Janet Kigusiuq, Victoria Mamnguqsualuk and Annie Pootoogook,” *Inuit Art Quarterly*, Fall/Winter 2004: 59-61.

Patricia Feheley, “The Art of Annie Pootoogook,” *Inuit Art Quarterly*, Summer 2004: 11.

Feheley Fine Arts, “Moving Forward: Works on Paper by Annie Pootoogook,” Exhibition Brochure, Toronto: Feheley Fine Arts, 2003.

**COLLECTIONS:**

Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia  
Art Gallery of Hamilton, Hamilton, Ontario  
Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Ontario  
Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax, Nova Scotia  
Canada Council Art Bank, Ottawa, Ontario  
Canadian Museum of Civilization, Hull, Quebec  
Confederation Centre Art Gallery, Charlottetown, PEI  
Illingworth Kerr Gallery, Alberta College of Art and Design, Calgary, Alberta  
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Indian and Inuit Art Centre, Ottawa, Ontario  
MacDonald Stewart Art Centre, Guelph, Ontario  
Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal, Quebec  
National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario  
Portrait Gallery, Ottawa, Ontario  
Power Plant, Toronto, Ontario