

## **Inuit Art Foundation News – April 2015**

### **A Few Words from the President**

It's always my privilege to help deliver the latest installment of the Inuit Art Foundation News! This is our way of keeping the Foundation family apprised of what we've been up to and what's on the horizon. And wow, it's been a very busy 2015 so far! Our Board of Directors and staff have been working hard to make lots and lots of things happen. For instance, we have an upcoming launch of the Inuit Art Quarterly Spring 2015 issue. It's another informative, timely, sometimes provocative and beautiful, installment of the magazine – special thanks to Editor Nancy Campbell and Art Director Barbara Solowan. What else? Well, we continue to be very busy representing the diverse interests of Inuit artist here at home and abroad. The Foundation was on the Hill in Ottawa for Seal Day, a riverside Pier in New York for Armory Art Fair and in the heart of Toronto's Financial District for a seminal public discussion about contemporary Inuit art. And somewhere in the mix, the Foundation hosted its first Board meeting of the year in Iqaluit.

I'll stop there, invite you to read on and I'm sure you will get as excited as we are! Our range of initiatives directly benefit Inuit artists, develop international interest in Inuit art and move forward scholarship. And as always, let us know what you think ... because your input is always important to the team at Inuit Art Foundation.

Enjoy!

(Jimmy Signature)

### **Upcoming Issue of Inuit Art Quarterly**

(insert Spring 2015 cover image)

Spring is in the air, and the latest issue of Inuit Art Quarterly is about to hit a newsstand near you! This edition continues to acknowledge both artists from the past and present, demonstrating that early art and cultural knowledge affects the art we see, hear, and feel today. Curator Christine Lalonde has prepared an in-depth interview with a spectacular carver from Labrador, Billy Gauthier adding to our growing list of informative artist interviews. We are pleased to be the first to publish Parisian writer and academic Florence Duchemin-Pelletier's piece entitled *Inuit Art in France: 1950-70*, which will add some international historic insights on the promotion and reception of Inuit art in Europe. We are excited to highlight an emerging talented graphic artist from Cape Dorset, named Saimaiyu Akesuk – her work won't be hard to miss, it adorns the magazine's cover! This issue will also include our regular columns seen in the last issues, including Northern Highlights, State of the Art, Curator's Choice, Collector's Choice, Tributes, Exhibition Reviews, News and more. We hope that you enjoy your latest issue of Inuit Art Quarterly! And we can't wait for the response from our European readers. We're planning to officially launch the issue in Italy during the opening of the Venice Biennale – one of the most important visual art events in the world. Maybe we'll see you there!

### **Launch of the TD Arctic Research Fellowship with Jonathan King Lecture**

(insert group shot from lecture event)

The Inuit Art Foundation is pleased to collaborate with TD Bank on creation of the Arctic Research Fellowship. In the form of a \$25,000 bursary, this unique annual initiative will allow Canadian and international scholars and curators to pursue research on aspects of Inuit culture and history. The project was launched earlier this month during a special event to celebrate inaugural fellowship recipient Jonathan King. Known for his research on art and material culture as aspects of the larger dynamics of culture contact and historical change in Native North America, King is Von Hügel Fellow at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Cambridge. His next book is *Blood and Land: An Introduction to Native North America*, to be published by Penguin in 2016. The upcoming work that King will conduct as part of his Arctic Research Fellowship is a major research undertaking in Igloolik, Nunavut. Special thanks to TD for its generous support of the fellowship and to Sarah Milroy for having the initial vision to move this project forward!

### **Inuit Art Foundation at Seal Day on the Hill**

(insert event shot from Parliament Hill)

Fashionable seal fur wearables, delicious seal edibles and the opportunity to snap a *#sealfie* – it was another Seal Day on the Hill in Ottawa. And Inuit Art Foundation was there to seal-the-deal, so to speak! This annual event, founded by The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, is a showcase for seal products and highlights the importance of the Inuit seal harvest to northern culture and economy. It is also an important platform to emphasize the government's continued commitment to Canadian sealing and to educate and inform a wide range of parliamentarians on the challenges facing the sector. This growing Ottawa tradition comprises a full day of seal-related politicking, discussions and socializing. Seal Day on the Hill kicked-off with a brunch program at the National Arts Centre; highlights included a seal fur fashion show presented by the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association and a panel discussion entitled, *Inuit Perspectives on Canada's Arctic Future*, hosted by the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) and the Economic Club of Canada. The Inuk panelists included Leona Aglukkaq, President of ITK; Terry Audla, National Inuit Leader; Clint Davis, Vice President of Aboriginal Banking at TD Business Banking; and Peter Patuna, the Premier of Nunavut. Brunch was followed by a networking event in Centre Block on Parliament Hill hosted by Speaker of the House of Commons Andrew Scheer. The get together was an excellent chance to hob knob and an even better couture opportunity – the dress code? Business sealskin, of course!

### **Inuit Contemporary at First Canadian Place**

(insert shot of panelists)

Artists, curators and cultural enthusiasts packed the First Canadian Place Gallery in Toronto's business district for a special discussion about Inuit art. Hosted by the Inuit Art Foundation and Canada Council for the Arts in partnership with Brookfield Properties, the discussion entitled, *Inuit Contemporary*, explored Inuit art within the broader context of contemporary Canadian art. Panelists included artist Shary Boyle, curator Gerald McMaster and artist Bill Nasogaluak (who was unexpectedly absent due to a personal commitment) and moderated by the editor of the Inuit Art Quarterly, Nancy Campbell. The lunchtime discussion touched on a wide range of topics, from the history of Inuit art to ideas around possible future directions for Inuit artists.

Beth Kotierk, in her online blog for the Canada Council says, *“This panel discussion acted as a starting point for discovering uncovered potential when considering the future of Inuit and Canadian art”*. We couldn't agree more.

### **Northern Gathering for the Inuit Art Foundation Board of Directors**

(insert shot from meeting table)

For its first meeting of 2015, the Inuit Art Foundation Board of Directors convened in Iqaluit to talk shop and reconnect with community stakeholders. This two-day session allowed the Board an important opportunity to review its 2014 activities and start rolling out the Foundation's 2015 plans. In addition to a variety of reports and updates, special guests from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Develop Canada dropped in by conference call for part of the meeting. Some business highlights include the election of artist Billy Gauthier to the Board of Directors. He brings the voice of an important new generation of creator to the Foundation while well representing his Nunatsiavut region – and he's a really amazing artist! We also officially launched the Foundation's search for a new Executive Director, which is an important step in growing the Foundation. We are working with our colleague organizations in the North and across Canada to find the best possible candidate. Lots of other business emerged from the Board session so stayed tuned for more details in the coming months.

### **Kenojuak Cultural Centre And Print Shop Capital Campaign**

(insert group shot from Montréal event)

Support is growing for the capital campaign aimed at realizing a multi-use gathering space and studio facility in the Arctic hamlet of Cape Dorset. The Kenojuak Cultural Centre and Print Shop will be come a vital component of a settlement known for producing some of Canada's most well-known Inuit art by some of the country's most important artists. Under the leadership of Paul Desmarais III, the campaign is developing momentum and is gaining more attention and support in the Canadian arts community. The fundraising goal for this initiative is \$3,000,000 with \$1,200,000 already committed. Over the coming months, Desmarais and his campaign team will meet with interested corporations, foundations and individuals across the country. The total cost of building the centre is \$10 million. The 10,000 square foot facility, designed by architectural firm Fournier Gersovitz Moss Drolet & Associés, Architectes, is slated to open in 2017. The Centre will function as both a cultural meeting place for the residents of Cape Dorset, a modern print shop, exhibition space and teaching centre for local and visiting artists. The Inuit Art Foundation is an initiative partner and will accept and process donations and issue charitable tax receipts on behalf of the campaign.

For up-to-the-minute details about Inuit Art Foundation activities, like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.