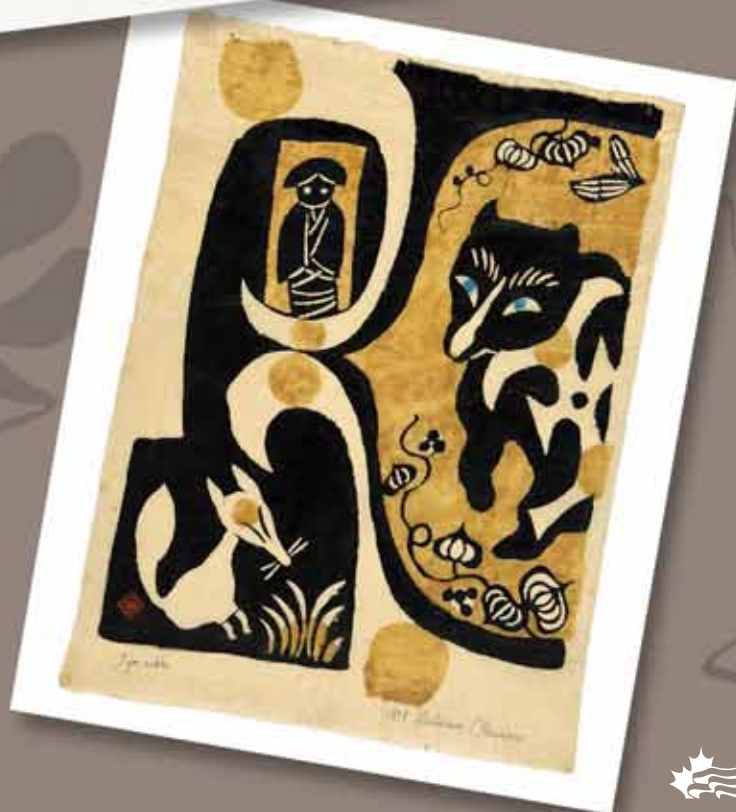


INUIT PRINTS: JAPANESE INSPIRATION

Early printmaking in the Canadian Arctic

TRAVELLING EXHIBITION

CANADIAN MUSEUM OF
CIVILIZATION CORPORATION



INUIT PRINTS: JAPANESE INSPIRATION

Some fifty years ago, the small community of Cape Dorset in the Canadian Arctic was introduced to the ancient traditions of Japanese printmaking. The remarkable story of that artistic encounter and its extraordinary result are the focus of **Inuit Prints: Japanese Inspiration**.

This exhibition features exquisite and historically significant works of art from Japan and the world-renowned Cape Dorset print studio. It also pays tribute to the man who first introduced Japanese prints to the Arctic: Canadian artist and “discoverer” of Inuit art, James Houston.

Inuit Prints: Japanese Inspiration is a groundbreaking inquiry into the Japanese influences on the early years of the Cape Dorset studio. The exhibition comprises original works of art, including some of the rarest and earliest Cape Dorset prints and the actual Japanese prints that were brought into Cape Dorset in 1959, inspiring the Inuit artists. By juxtaposing the works, the exhibition reveals the many ways in which the Cape Dorset artists creatively “localized” Japanese influences.

CONTENT

Works of Art:

49 framed, original works of graphic art, as follows:

- Early and rare Cape Dorset prints (stonecuts, stencils and rubbings) from 1957 to 1963.
- Original and historically unique Japanese woodblock and stencil prints (ca. 1958–1959), which were brought to Cape Dorset from Japan in 1959 by James Houston.
- Watercolours and prints created by James Houston, OC, RCA (1921–2005) during his 1958 stay in Japan and after his return to Cape Dorset.

Artifacts:

9 printmaking artifacts, including:

- A stone print block from Cape Dorset, used in 1960.
- 8 printmaking tools created and used by Cape Dorset artists in the late 1950s, showing the “local” translation of Japanese printing tools. They include a hake brush made of polar bear fur and a sealskin baren.



Exhibition Display:

- 9 graphic panels, including reproductions of rare historical photographs. Texts are in English, French, Japanese and Inuktitut.
- Annotated Guide to the Artworks (in 4 languages).
- A specially edited DVD: *Threads that Connect Us: Washimakers Meet Cape Dorset Artists*, and audio-visual equipment.
- 2 showcases.

EXHIBITION AREA

160 m² (1,700 ft²)

62 linear m (202 linear ft)

AVAILABILITY

2011-2014 (12 week bookings or longer)

LOAN FEE

Starting at \$8,000 (transport included in Canada)
The borrower should plan to pay for full-coverage insurance for the total value of the exhibition.

ACCOMPANYING MATERIALS

- Catalogue: *Inuit Prints, Japanese Inspiration: Early Printmaking in the Canadian Arctic*, by Norman Vorano, Ming Tiampo and Asato Ikeda, 100 pages. ISBN: 978-0-660-97374-6
- Website : www.civilization.ca/inuitjapaneseprints
- Teaching Kit
- Media Kit
- Installation manual and condition report binder

CONSERVATION REQUIREMENTS

- Humidity: 50 % (± 5 %)
- Stable temperature: 20 °C (± 2 °C)
- Lighting: 50 lux for the works on paper



SECURITY

- 24-hour electronic or human surveillance
- Human surveillance when the crates are being unloaded and loaded
- Human surveillance during the installation and dismantling of the exhibition

CONTACT PERSON

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On the Cover:

Owl, Fox and Hare Legend, 1959, Osuïtok Ipeelee, CMC, CD 1959-021 SS

Iyon Nokka, 1958, Kichiemon Okamura, gift of Alice W. Houston, CMC, 2010.171

Back:

Japanese Gate, 1958, James Houston, gift of Alice W. Houston, CMC, 2010.171

Stone Image of Buddha at Usuki, ca. 1940, Un'ichi Hiratsuka, gift of Alice W. Houston, CMC, 2010.171

Polar Bear and Cub in Ice, 1959, Niviasi, CMC, CD 1959-012 SS

Photos: M-L Deruaz, © CMC