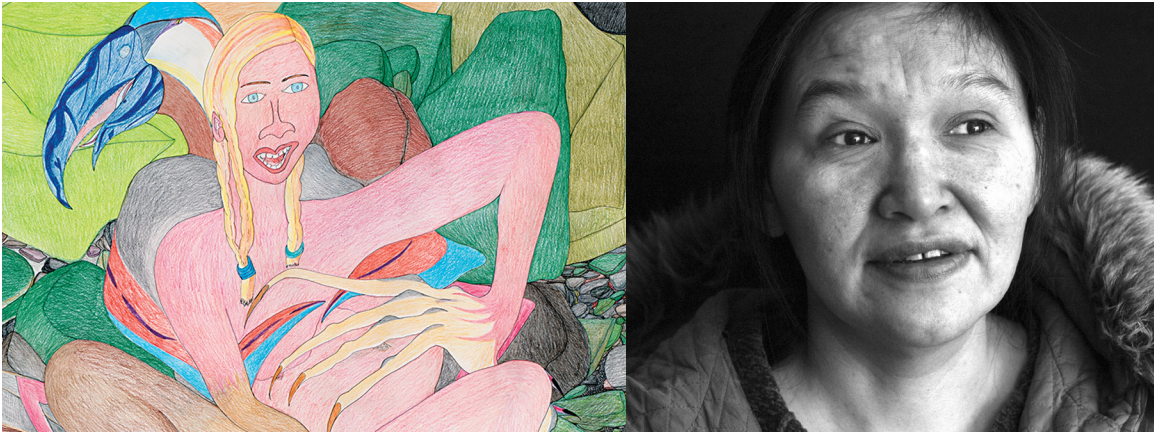


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shuvinai Ashoona's singular style and bold artistic experimentation, including collaborations with Shary Boyle, has overturned stereotypical notions of Inuit art. Today she is an internationally renowned artist.

The Art Canada Institute announces the publication of its free online art book about innovative Inuit artist Shuvinai Ashoona.



LEFT: Shuvinai Ashoona, *Happy Mother*, 2013, coloured pencil, graphite and ink on paper, 123 x 127.5 cm, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. **RIGHT:** Photograph of Shuvinai Ashoona, c. March 2, 2005. Photograph by William Ritchie.

TORONTO, ON – In the tiny hamlet of Kinngait, Nunavut, Shuvinai Ashoona (b. 1961) is a pearl—an artist protected from the world at large, who relishes the daily routine and support of working at Kinngait Studios. She is the granddaughter of iconic Inuit artist Pitseolak Ashoona and the daughter of renowned sculptor Kiugak Ashoona. In the mid-1990s Shuvinai began producing detailed drawings that were made into lithographs,

etchings, and stonecut prints. Her early works were primarily monochromatic depictions of natural landscapes and traditions of the North, but by the late 1990s, her attentions shifted to depictions of fantastical creatures, dream-like landscapes, and aerial-perspective representations of a global community, expressed in vivid colour.

Shuvinai is an artist of superlative talent, her work characterized by full and elaborate depictions of the natural landscape and social networks of the North. *Shuvinai Ashoona: Life & Work* celebrates the influences of an artist whose rich graphic imagery conveys an intricate and textured interior world. Her distinctive style situates her in a category apart from other contemporary artists. Using pencil, pen and ink, and markers to render dense, highly imaginative representations of inner visions, transcendental projections, and exterior world, her art reflects the intersection of values between the traditional North and the contemporary South.

For images from *Shuvinai Ashoona: Life & Work*:

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About Nancy Campbell:

Nancy Campbell has been an independent curator of contemporary and Inuit art since 1993, working for institutions including the Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery in Toronto and the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre at the University of Guelph. She holds a Masters of Arts from the University of British Columbia and is currently a PhD candidate at York University.

About the Art Canada Institute:

Based at Massey College, University of Toronto, the Art Canada Institute is a non-profit research organization dedicated to Canadian art history, research, education and promotion.

About the Canadian Online Art Book Project

The Canadian Online Art Book Project publishes six free art eBooks a year, available for free in both French and English, written by the country's art experts in an accessible voice, to promote the study of Canada and its art history to a broad public audience, both domestically and abroad.

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