NAPATCHIE POOTOOGOOK (NAWPASHEE; NAWPACHEE; NAPACHEE; NEPACHEE; NAPACHEE)

Date of Birth: 1938    Male/Female: Female
Deceased: 2002
Place of Birth: Sako Camp, South Baffin Island
Mother: Pitseolak Ashoona
Father: Ashoona

"Born at Sako, a traditional Inuit camp on the Southwest coast of Baffin Island, Northwest Territories, Napatchie Pootoogook is the only surviving daughter of one of Inuit art’s most important figures, Pitseolak Ashoona. Along with her sculptor brothers, [Namoonai, Koomwartok, Ottochie], Kiawak and Kaka Ashoona and her graphic artist sisters-in-law, Mayureak and Sorosiluto Ashoona, Napatchie belongs to a family with a strong artistic identity that has contributed significantly to the reputation of Cape Dorset art and the printmaking studio of the West Baffin Eskimo Co-operative. In the mid-1950’s while living at Kiaktuuq, she married Eegyvukluk Pootoogook (b. 1931), son of the important camp leader, Pootoogook, who has since become of the main printers at the Cape Dorset studio. Like her mother, Napatchie began drawing in the late 1950’s. Since 1960 her work has been included in almost every annual collection of Cape Dorset prints. Napatchie and her husband moved into Cape Dorset in 1965, where they have continued to live, except for a two-year stay in Iqaluit in the early 1970’s.

Although much of her early work, such as the print, “Eskimo Sea Dreams” (1960), presents a lyrical, dream-like reflection of Inuit beliefs in the spirit world, the main thrust of her prints and drawings since the mid-1970’s have been more concerned with recording traditional life, clothing and local Inuit history. In prints such as, “Atchealda’s Battle” (1978), “The First Policeman I Saw” (1978), “Nascopie Reef” (1989) and “Whaler’s Exchange” (1989), Napatchie uses a vigorous, energetic figurative style to bring to life significant events of the past. Like her sister-in-law, Sorosiluto, Napatchie participated in the acrylic painting/drawing workshops established by the West Baffin Co-operative in 1976. Her interest in landscape and Western notions of spatial composition would seem to grow out of this experience. Most recently, Napatchie has been working directly in the lithographic medium and experimenting with life drawing as a preparatory stage toward the print image."

Marie Routledge

Napatchie’s work in recent years has focused on local history and stories about people and events in the Cape Dorset area, often with accompanying text to explain the circumstances. She has amassed a unique and important body of work. She is represented in this year’s annual collection by three prints which illustrate her narrative style and the importance of traditional culture and stories.*

EXHIBITIONS:

1951
Eskimo Art
National Gallery of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
(illustrated brochure)

Cape Dorset Graphics
(annual collection)
(illustrated catalogue)

December 1961
Contemporary Eskimo Art
Gimpel Fils
London, England
(illustrated catalogue)

1967
The Eskimo Art Collection of the Toronto-
Dominion Bank
Toronto-Dominion Bank
Toronto, Ontario
(tour)
(illustrated catalogue)

January – February 1967
Cape Dorset – A Decade of Eskimo Prints and
Recent Sculpture
National Gallery of Canada
In cooperation with the Canadian Eskimo Arts
Committee
Ottawa, Ontario
(tour)
(illustrated catalogue)

April – May 1967
Carvings and Prints by the Family of Pitseolak
Robertson Galleries
Ottawa, Ontario
(illustrated catalogue)

February – March 1968
A Collection of Original Drawings by Cape
Dorset Artists (in conjunction with Davidee Kavik
Sculpture)
Lofthouse Galleries
Ottawa, Ontario
(illustrated brochure)

September – November 1969
The Eskimo
Museum of Fine Arts
Houston, Texas, U.S.A.
(illustrated catalogue)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Exhibition Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>Graphic Art by Eskimos of Canada: First Collection</td>
<td>Cultural Affairs Division, Department of External Affairs, Canada</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ottawa, Ontario</td>
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<td>(tour)</td>
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<td>(illustrated catalogue)</td>
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<tr>
<td>January – February 1971</td>
<td>The Art of the Eskimo</td>
<td>Simon Fraser Gallery</td>
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<td>Simon Fraser University</td>
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<td>Burnaby, British Columbia</td>
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<td>(catalogue)</td>
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<tr>
<td>January – March 1972</td>
<td>Eskimo Fantastic Art</td>
<td>Gallery 111, School of Art</td>
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<td>University of Alberta</td>
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<td>Winnipeg, Manitoba</td>
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<td>(tour)</td>
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<td>(illustrated catalogue)</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 1975 – December 1977</td>
<td>Inuit Games/Inuit Pinguangit/Jeux des Inuit</td>
<td>Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development</td>
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<td>Ottawa, Ontario</td>
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<td>(illustrated brochure)</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 1978</td>
<td>Inuit Games and Contests: The Clifford E. Lee Collection of Prints</td>
<td>University of Alberta</td>
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<td>Edmonton, Alberta</td>
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<td>Jerusalem, Israel</td>
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<td>(illustrated catalogue)</td>
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<td>May – August 1979</td>
<td>21 x 12 (Eskimo Drawing Exhibition)</td>
<td>Inuk 1 Gallery</td>
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<td>San Francisco, California, U.S.A.</td>
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<td>July 1979 – October 1981</td>
<td>Images of the Inuit: from the Simon Fraser Collection</td>
<td>Simon Fraser Gallery</td>
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<td>Simon Fraser University</td>
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<td>January – March 1980</td>
<td>Cape Dorset</td>
<td>Winnipeg Art Gallery</td>
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<td>Winnipeg, Manitoba</td>
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<td>(illustrated catalogue)</td>
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<tr>
<td>July – August 1981</td>
<td>Eskimo Games: Graphics and Sculpture/Giocchi Eschimesi: grafiche e sculture</td>
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</table>
October – November 1983
The Cape Dorset Print
Presented at Rideau Hall by Indian and Northern Affairs, Canada
Ottawa, Ontario

October – December 1983
Inuit Masterworks: Selections from the Collection of Indian and Northern Affairs, Canada
McMichael Canadian Art Collection
Kleinburg, Ontario

February 1984 – June 1986
Arctic Vision: Art of the Canadian Inuit
Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Canadian Arctic Producers
Ottawa, Ontario
(tour)
(illustrated catalogue)

May – June 1986
Northern Exposure: Inuit Images of Travel
Burnaby Art Gallery
Burnaby, British Columbia
(illustrated catalogue)

November 1986
Inuit Graphics Through the Year: Rare Prints from the Arctic
Arctic Artistry
Hamilton, Ontario

November – December 1986
Cape Dorset Prints and Sculpture
McMaster Art Gallery
Hamilton, Ontario

June – July 1987
Works from the McCuaig Collection in the Laurentian University Museum and Arts Centre
Laurentian University Museum and Arts Centre
Sudbury, Ontario
(illustrated catalogue)

October 1987
Recent Acquisitions of Early Inuit Sculpture
Arctic Artistry
Hartsdale, New York, U.S.A.

November 1987
Arctic Artistry
Hartsdale, New York, U.S.A.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Exhibition Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 1988</td>
<td>Canadian Prints from the McMaster Art Gallery Collection</td>
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<td>McMaster Art Gallery</td>
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<td>Hamilton, Ontario</td>
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<td>Gallery 210</td>
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<td>University of Missouri</td>
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<td>St. Louis, Missouri, U.S.A.</td>
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<td>Winnipeg Art Gallery</td>
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<td>Winnipeg, Manitoba</td>
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<td>February – April 1989</td>
<td>Spoken in Stone: An exhibition of Inuit Art</td>
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<td>Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies</td>
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<td>Banff, Alberta</td>
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<td>(tour)</td>
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<td>August 1989</td>
<td>Art Inuit, la Sculpture des Esquimaux du Canada</td>
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<td>Presented by l’Iglou Art Esquimau, Douai</td>
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<td>At Chapelle de la Visitation, Thonon</td>
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<td>Thonon, France</td>
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<td>August – October 1989</td>
<td>Inuit Graphic Art from Indian and Northern Affairs, Canada</td>
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<td>Winnipeg Art Gallery</td>
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<td>December 1989</td>
<td>Art Inuit, la Sculpture des Esquimaux du Canada</td>
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<td>Presented by l’Iglou Art Esquimau, Douai</td>
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<td>At Les Chiroux, Centre Culturel de la Walloni</td>
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<td>Arctic Artistry</td>
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<td>Hastings-on-Hudson, New York, U.S.A.</td>
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<td>November – December</td>
<td>Art Inuit: Autour de la Collection de Cape Dorset 1990</td>
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<td>January 1991</td>
<td>Sojourns to Nunavut: Contemporary Inuit Art from Canada</td>
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<td>March – April 1991</td>
<td>Art Inuit</td>
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<td>April – May 1991</td>
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<td>May – June 1991</td>
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<td>July 1991</td>
<td>Art Inuit</td>
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<td>July – August 1991</td>
<td>Glaciopolis: Art Inuit</td>
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<td>December 1991 – March 1992</td>
<td>In Cape Dorset We Do It This Way: Three Decades of Inuit Printmaking</td>
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<td>February – April 1992</td>
<td>Art Inuit</td>
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<tr>
<td>June – July 1992</td>
<td>Women of the North: An Exhibition of art by Inuit Women of the Canadian Arctic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
May – June 1994  Cape Dorset Revisited: a collection of previously unreleased prints, exhibited at selected commercial galleries, organized by West Baffin Island Co-op Cape Dorset, Northwest Territories

May 1994 – July 1995  Cape Dorset Revisited McMichael Canadian Art Collection Kleinburg, Ontario (illustrated catalogue)

September – October 1994  Kunst van de Inuit Eskimo’s Gemeentelijk Kunstcentrum Huis Hellemans Edegem, Belgium (illustrated brochure)


April – June 1995  Exhibition of Inuit Art Harbourfront Centre Organized by the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre Guelph, Ontario

June 1995  Sunakutagnuvalautut: Things from the Past Feheley Fine Arts Toronto, Ontario


December 1995 – March 1996  Imaak Takujavut: Paintings from Cape Dorset McMichael Canadian Art Collection Kleinburg, Ontario

March – June 1996  Imaak Takujavut: The Way We See It Paintings from Cape Dorset McMichael Canadian Art Collection Kleinburg, Ontario (illustrated catalogue)

May – June 1996  Exhibition of Inuit Art Glenhyrst Art Gallery Organized by the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre Guelph Brantford, Ontario

May – October 1996  Elagiiqniq/Family Macdonald Stewart Art Centre Guelph, Ontario (tour)

November 1997  Graphite and Stone
Sculpture and Drawing: Baffin Artists in two mediums  
Spirit Wrestler Gallery  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
(illustrated catalogue)

October

Collection D’Estampes de Cape Dorset  
Canadian Guild of Crafts Quebec  
Montreal, Quebec  
(brochure)

May – October 1999

Three Women, Three Generations: Drawings by Pitseolak Ashoona, Napatchie Pootoogook and Shuvenai Ashoona  
McMichael Canadian Art Collection  
Kleinburg, Ontario  
(illustrated catalogue)

June – September 2000

Arctic Spirit: Canadian Inuit Sculpture  
Boise State University  
Boise, Idaho, U.S.A.

October 2000

Cape Dorset Print Collection 2000  
West Baffin Eskimo Co-operative  
Cape Dorset, Nunavut

November – December 2000

Paintings from Cape Dorset  
The Albers Gallery of Inuit Art  
San Francisco, California, U.S.A.  
(illustrated catalogue)

April – May 2001

Spirit of the Walrus  
Feheley Fine Arts  
Toronto, Ontario  
(illustrated brochure)

June

Cross-Currents  
Cape Dorset in the 1960’s  
Feheley Fine Arts  
Toronto, Ontario

January – February 2002

Cape Dorset Prints: 1961 – 1976  
The Albers Gallery of Inuit Art  
San Francisco, California, U.S.A.

April

Art by Women:  
An investigation of Inuit Sculpture and Graphics  
Feheley Fine Arts  
Toronto, Ontario

April

Cape Dorset: First Generation Printmakers  
The Albers Gallery of Inuit Art  
San Francisco, California, U.S.A.  
(illustrated catalogue)

2003

Cape Dorset Prints  
(annual collection)  
(illustrated catalogue)
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inuit Gallery of Vancouver</td>
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<td>Vancouver, British Columbia (Illustrated brochure)</td>
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<td>April</td>
<td>Women of the Ashoona Family: Inuit Print Retrospective</td>
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<td>The Guild Shop</td>
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<td>Toronto, Ontario</td>
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<td>June 2005</td>
<td>Windows on Kinngait – The Drawings of Napatchie Pootoogook and Annie Pootoogook Feheley Fine Arts Toronto, Ontario</td>
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<td>October – June 2005</td>
<td>The Power of Dreams Winnipeg Art Gallery Winnipeg, Manitoba</td>
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<td>October, 2009 – January, 2010</td>
<td>Nunannguaq: In the Likeness of the Earth McMichael Canadian Art Collection Kleinburg, Ontario</td>
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<td>May, 2010</td>
<td>Mothers in Inuit Art</td>
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<td>Feheley Fine Arts</td>
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<td>Toronto, Ontario</td>
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<td>April, 2011</td>
<td>Inuit Modern: The Samuel and Esther Sarick Collection</td>
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<td>Art Gallery of Ontario</td>
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<td>Toronto, Ontario (Illustrated catalogue)</td>
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SOLO EXHIBITIONS:

October – November 2002   Napatchie Pootoogook: Drawings
                          The Albers Gallery of Inuit Art
                          San Francisco, California, U.S.A.

November – December 2002  Napatchie Pootoogook: Drawings
                          The Albers Gallery of Inuit Art
                          San Francisco, California, U.S.A.
                          (illustrated catalogue)

June – September 2004     Napatchie Pootoogook
                          Winnipeg Art Gallery
                          Winnipeg, Manitoba
                          (illustrated catalogue)

2005                      Original Drawings by Napatchie Pootoogook
                          Home and Away
                          Kennebunkport, Maine, U.S.A.

May, 2014                 Napatchie Pootoogook  True North
                          Feheley Fine Arts
                          Toronto, Ontario
                          (illustrated catalogue)
COLLECTIONS:

Ackland Art Museum, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, U.S.A.
Agnes Etherington Art Centre, Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario
Amon Carter Museum of Western Art, Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A.
Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia
Art Gallery of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario
Beaverbrook Art Gallery, Fredericton, New Brunswick
Canadian Museum of Civilization, Hull, Quebec
Clifford E. Lee Collection, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta
Confederation Centre of the Arts, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
Dennos Museum Center, Northwestern Michigan College, Traverse City, Michigan, U.S.A.
Department of Foreign Affairs, Ottawa, Ontario
Fitzgerald Collection, Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, Banff, Alberta
Glenbow Museum, Calgary, Alberta
Inuit Cultural Institute, Rankin Inlet, Northwest Territories
Laurentian University Museum and Arts Centre, Sudbury, Ontario
London Regional Art Gallery, London, Ontario
McMaster University Art Gallery, Hamilton, Ontario
McMichael Canadian Art Collection, Kleinburg, Ontario
Musee des beaux-arts de Montreal, Montreal, Quebec
Museum of Anthropology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia
National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario
Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories
Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Ontario
Simon Fraser Gallery, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia
Teleglobe Canada, Montreal, Quebec
Toronto-Dominion Bank Collection, Toronto, Ontario
University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta
University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge, Alberta
Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, Banff, Alberta
Winnipeg Art Gallery, Winnipeg, Manitoba

HONOURS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND EVENTS:

1979 McClelland and Stewart Commission. Napatchie produced the commission lithograph, “Inuksuit”, which was included in the limited edition book, “Landmarks of Canadian Art”. This work is documented in the Cape Dorset Graphic annual catalogue, 1979.

SELECTED REFERENCES:


Baird, Irene

Berlo, Janet Catherine
Berlo, Janet Catherine

Blodgett, Jean

Canada. Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources
CANADIAN ESKIMO ART. Ottawa, Ont.: Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, 1955.

Collinson, Helen

Eber, Dorothy Harley

Gautsche, Nancy

Gillmor, Alison

Gustavison, Susan J.

Houston, James A.

Jackson, Marion E.
INUIT PRINTS: Impressions of a Culture in Transition. LSA 9 (1) :6 – 12, Fall (The University of Michigan), 1985.

Jackson, Marion E.

Laurentian University Museum and Arts Centre

Leroux, Odette et alia
Lipton, Barbara  

Marion Scott Gallery  

Pauktuutit  

Ritchie, Carson I.A.  

Routledge, Marie  

Ryan, Leslie Boyd  

West Baffin Eskimo Co-operative  

Winnipeg Art Gallery  
Napachee is tired of Sachs Harbour in the North West Territories. He is tired of the traditional Inuit hunt, of never being able to do the things he sees on TV and of fighting with his father, who shuns rifles for harpoons, snowmobiles for dog sleds and tents for igloos. But when two men from the Edmonton zoo fly in to capture a polar bear cub, Napachee spies his chance at a trip to the big city, hiding in the bear's cage during the plane and truck ride south. Excitement changes to terror when one of the zoo keepers discovers the stowaway and veers off the road near Yellowknife. The cub es