

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

Date of Birth: 1938 Male/Female: Female

Deceased: 2002

Place of Birth: Sako Camp, South Baffin Island

Mother: Pitseolak Ashoona

Father: Ashoona

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“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, [Namoona, 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 Kiaktuq, she married Eegyvukluk Pootoogook (b. 1931), son of the important camp leader, Pootoogook, who has since become one 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  
In “North American Women Artists of the Twentieth Century:  
A Biographical Dictionary”, 1995.

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.\*

\*Except from the West Baffin Eskimo Co-operative Biography. Annual Print collection 2000.

## EXHIBITIONS:

- 1951  
Eskimo Art  
National Gallery of Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario  
(illustrated brochure)
- 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1965,  
1967, 1970, 1977, 1978, 1979,  
1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1985  
1989, 1990, 1993, 1996  
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)

- 1970  
Graphic Art by Eskimos of Canada:  
First Collection  
Cultural Affairs Division, Department of External  
Affairs, Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario  
(tour)  
(illustrated catalogue)
- January – February 1971  
The Art of the Eskimo  
Simon Fraser Gallery  
Simon Fraser University  
Burnaby, British Columbia  
(catalogue)
- January – March 1972  
Eskimo Fantastic Art  
Gallery 111, School of Art  
University of Alberta  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
(tour)  
(illustrated catalogue)
- October 1975 – December 1977  
Inuit Games/Inuit Pinguangit/Jeux des Inuit  
Department of Indian Affairs and Northern  
Development  
Ottawa, Ontario  
(tour)  
(illustrated brochure)
- August 1978  
Inuit Games and Contests: The Clifford E. Lee  
Collection of Prints  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, Alberta  
(illustrated catalogue)
- November – December 1978  
Polar Vision: Canadian Eskimo Graphics  
Jerusalem Artists' House Museum  
Jerusalem, Israel  
(illustrated catalogue)
- May – August 1979  
21 x 12 (Eskimo Drawing Exhibition)  
Inuk 1 Gallery  
San Francisco, California, U.S.A.
- July 1979 – October 1981  
Images of the Inuit: from the Simon Fraser  
Collection  
Simon Fraser Gallery  
Simon Fraser University  
Burnaby, British Columbia  
(tour)  
(illustrated catalogue)
- January – March 1980  
Cape Dorset  
Winnipeg Art Gallery  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
(illustrated catalogue)
- July – August 1981  
Eskimo Games: Graphics and Sculpture/  
Giochi Eschimesi: grafiche e sculture

- National Gallery of Modern Art  
Rome, Italy  
(illustrated catalogue)
- 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  
Inuit Traditions in Graphics: 1961 – 1987  
Arctic Artistry  
Hartsdale, New York, U.S.A.

- September 1988  
Canadian Prints from the McMaster Art Gallery  
Collection  
McMaster Art Gallery  
Hamilton, Ontario
- November – December 1988  
Inuit Women and their Art: Graphics and  
Wallhangings  
Gallery 210  
University of Missouri  
St. Louis, Missouri, U.S.A.  
(illustrated brochure)
- November 1988 – April 1989  
Night Spirits: Cape Dorset 1960 – 1965  
Winnipeg Art Gallery  
Winnipeg, Manitoba
- February – April 1989  
Spoken in Stone: An exhibition of Inuit Art  
Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies  
Banff, Alberta  
(tour)  
(illustrated brochure)
- August 1989  
Art Inuit, la Sculpture des Esquimaux du Canada  
Presented by l'Iglou Art Esquimau, Douai  
At Chapelle de la Visitation, Thonon  
Thonon, France
- August – October 1989  
Inuit Graphic Art from Indian and Northern  
Affairs, Canada  
Winnipeg Art Gallery  
Winnipeg, Manitoba
- December 1989  
Art Inuit, la Sculpture des Esquimaux du Canada  
Presented by l'Iglou Art Esquimau, Douai  
At Les Chiroux, Centre Culturel de la Walloni  
Liege  
Belgium
- June – September 1990  
Inuit Graphics and Drawings from 1959 – 1990  
Arctic Artistry  
Hastings-on-Hudson, New York, U.S.A.
- November – December  
Art Inuit: Autour de la Collection de Cape Dorset  
1990  
Presented by l'Iglou Art Esquimau, Douai  
At Centre Culturel Canadien  
Paris, France

- January 1991  
 Sojourns to Nunavut: Contemporary Inuit Art from Canada  
 At Bunkamura Art Gallery, presented by the University of British Columbia Museum of Anthropology and the McMichael Canadian Art Collection  
 Tokyo, Japan  
 (tour)  
 (illustrated catalogue)
- March – April 1991  
 Art Inuit  
 Presented by l'Iglou Art Esquimau, Douai  
 At Le Theatre  
 La Ciotat, France
- April – May 1991  
 Art Inuit  
 Presented by l'Iglou Art Esquimau, Douai  
 At Palais de l'Europe  
 Le Touquet, France
- May – June 1991  
 Art Inuit  
 Presented by l'Iglou Art Esquimau, Douai  
 At La Halle aux Bles  
 Saint Malo, France
- July 1991  
 Art Inuit  
 Presented by l'Iglou Art Esquimau, Douai  
 At Chapelle de la Visitation  
 Thonon, France
- July – August 1991  
 Glaciopolis: Art Inuit  
 Presented by l'Iglou Art Esquimau, Douai  
 At Maison de Pesey  
 Les Arcs, France
- December 1991 – March 1992  
 In Cape Dorset We Do It This Way: Three Decades of Inuit Printmaking  
 McMichael Canadian Art Collection  
 Kleinburg, Ontario  
 (illustrated catalogue)
- February – April 1992  
 Art Inuit  
 Presented by l'Iglou Art Esquimau, Douai  
 At Galerie Montador  
 Dieppe, France
- June – July 1992  
 Women of the North: An Exhibition of art by Inuit Women of the Canadian Arctic  
 Marion Scott Gallery  
 Vancouver, British Columbia  
 (illustrated catalogue)

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)
October 1994 – September 1995	Isumavut: The Artistic Expression of Nine Cape Dorset Women Canadian Museum of Civilization Hull, Quebec (illustrated catalogue)
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 – January 1996	Inuit Art: from the Collection of Maurice Yacowar Collector's Gallery Calgary, Alberta
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)

January 2003	Then and Now: Inuit Prints from 1962 – 2002 Inuit Gallery of Vancouver Vancouver, British Columbia (illustrated brochure)
April	Women of the Ashoona Family: Inuit Print Retrospective The Guild Shop Toronto, Ontario
November 2004 – January 2005	Our Land: Contemporary Art from the Arctic Peabody Essex Museum Salem, Massachusetts, U.S.A. (illustrated catalogue)
June 2005	Windows on Kinngait – The Drawings of Napatchie Pootoogook and Annie Pootoogook Feheley Fine Arts Toronto, Ontario
October – June 2005	The Power of Dreams Winnipeg Art Gallery Winnipeg, Manitoba
October, 2009 – January, 2010	Nunannuaq: In the Likeness of the Earth McMichael Canadian Art Collection Kleinburg, Ontario
May, 2010	Mothers in Inuit Art Feheley Fine Arts Toronto, Ontario
August, 2010 – January, 2011	Traditional Stories: Unikaaqtuat/ Modern Stories: Unkkaat McMichael Canadian Collection Kleinburg, Ontario
April, 2011	Inuit Modern: The Samuel and Esther Sarick Collection Art Gallery of Ontario Toronto, Ontario (Illustrated catalogue)
Dec. 2011 – Feb. 2012	Women in Charge Inuit Contemporary Women Artists Museo Nazionale Preistorica Etnografica “Luigi Pigorini” Rome Italy (illustrated catalogue)

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS:

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|--------------------------|---|
| October – November 2002  | Napatchie Pootoogook: Drawings<br>The Albers Gallery of Inuit Art<br>San Francisco, California, U.S.A.                            |
| November – December 2002 | Napatchie Pootoogook: Drawings<br>The Albers Gallery of Inuit Art<br>San Francisco, California, U.S.A.<br>(illustrated catalogue) |
| June – September 2004    | Napatchie Pootoogook<br>Winnipeg Art Gallery<br>Winnipeg, Manitoba<br>(illustrated catalogue)                                     |
| 2005                     | Original Drawings by Napatchie Pootoogook<br>Home and Away<br>Kennebunkport, Maine, U.S.A.  |
| May, 2014                | Napatchie Pootoogook True North<br>Feheley Fine Arts<br>Toronto, Ontario<br>(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  
 Dennon 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:

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- Baird, Irene  
 LAND OF THE LIVELY ARTS. The Beaver, Autumn 1961. Pp. 12 – 21.
- Berlo, Janet Catherine  
 AN EXHIBITION, A BOOK AND AN EXAGGERATED REACTION: A review essay by Janet Catherine Berlo. Inuit Art Quarterly: 10 (1), Spring 1995, pp. 26 – 36.

- Berlo, Janet Catherine  
 AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL IMPULSES AND FEMALE IDENTITY IN THE DRAWINGS OF  
 NAPATCHIE POOTOOGOOK. *Inuit Art Quarterly*, Vol. 8, No.4, Winter 1993.
- Blodgett, Jean  
 IN CAPE DORSET WE DO IT THIS WAY: THREE DECADES OF INUTI PRINTMAKING:  
 Jean Blodgett/with essays by Heather Ardies, Leslie Boyd and Linda Sutheland.  
 Kleinburg, Ont.: McMichael Canadian Art Collection, 1991.
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 WHEN THE WHALERS WERE UP NORTH: Inuit Memories from the Eastern Arctic.  
 Kingston, Ont.: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1989.
- Gautsche, Nancy  
 MYTH, MURDER AND MADNESS: Violence in Inuit Art. *Inuit Art Quarterly*, Vol. 4, No. 3,  
 Summer 1989, pp. 14 – 18.
- Gillmor, Alison  
 THE ASHOONA FAMILY OF Cape Dorset. *Inuit Art Quarterly*, 10 (2), Summer 1995, pp.  
 38 – 39.
- Gustavison, Susan J.  
 ARCTIC EXPRESSIONS: INUIT ART AND THE CANADIAN ESKIMO ARTS COUNCIL  
 1961 – 1989. Kleinburg, Ont.: McMichael Canadian Art Collection, 1994.
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 INUIT PRINTS: Impressions of a Culture in Transition. *LSA 9 (1)* :6 – 12, Fall (The  
 University of Michigan), 1985.
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 THE ASHOONAS OF CAPE DORSET. In *Touch with Tradition*. North/Nord, Vol. 29, No.3,  
 Fall 1982, pp. 14 – 18.
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 WORKS FROM THE MCCUAIG COLLECTION IN THE LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY  
 MUSEUM AND ARTS CENTRE. Sudbury, Ont.: The Laurentian University Museum and  
 Arts Centre, 1987.
- Leroux, Odette et alia  
 INUIT WOMEN ARTISTS: VOICES FROM CAPE DORSET: Edited by Odette Leroux,  
 Marion E. Jackson and Minnie Aoudla Freeman. Hull, Quebec: Canadian Museum of  
 Civilization, 1994.

Lipton, Barbara

ARCTIC VISION: Art of the Canadian Inuit. Ottawa, Ont.: Canadian Arctic Producers, 1984.

Marion Scott Gallery

WOMEN OF THE NORTH: AN EXHIBITION OF ART BY INUIT WOMEN OF THE CANADIAN ARCTIC: June 6 – July 11, 1992. Vancouver, British Columbia: Marion Scott Gallery, 1992.

Pauktuutit

NAALATSIARLUTIT: A presentation of artwork by northern artists on spousal abuse. Ottawa, Ont.: [London and New York, 1975]

Ritchie, Carson I.A.

THE ESKIMO AND HIS ART. Toronto, Ont.: The MacMillan Company of Canada, 1974. [London and New York, 1975].

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NAPATCHIE POOTOOGOOK (1938 - ). In North American Women Artists of the Twentieth Century: A Biographical Dictionary/Garland, 1995.

Ryan, Leslie Boyd

CAPE DORSET PRINTS: A Retrospective, Pomegranate, San Francisco, California, U.S.A., 2007.

West Baffin Eskimo Co-operative

DORSET 79. Toronto, Ont.: M.F. Feheley Publishers, 1979.

Winnipeg Art Gallery

CAPE DORSET. Winnipeg, Manitoba: The Winnipeg Art Gallery, 1979.

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