Baker Lake mother and daughters featured in upcoming art exhibition

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Wall hangings by Baker Lake's Jessie Oonark and her daughters Janet Kigusiuq and Victoria Mamnguqsualuk will be showcased in an upcoming exhibition titled Double Vision. Image courtesy of the Textile Museum of Canada

By Derek Neary
Northern News Services

Baker Lake/Toronto

The work of three Nunavut artists – a Baker Lake mother and her two daughters – will be the basis for a Textile Museum of Canada and Toronto Biennial of Art exhibition titled Double Vision.

Jessie Oonark (1906–1985) and her daughters Janet Kigusiuq (1926-2005) and Victoria Mamnguqsualuk (1930-2016) will be featured in the matriarchical display of brightly-stitched wall hangings, also known as nivingajuliat.

The wall hangings "feature graphic appliquéd images, often enhanced with embroidery, centering on the dynamics and interrelationships between people and animals. Through these artworks, Double Vision looks at the matriarchal practice of Oonark and two of her daughters, and how women artists in Qamani'tuaq (Baker Lake) mentored one another in producing unique aesthetic and conceptual lineages," states a news release from the Textile Museum of Canada.

Curated by Candice Hopkins, senior surator at the Toronto Biennial of Art, the exhibition will be on view at the Textile Museum from Feb. 16 to Aug. 14, 2022.

"Jessie Oonark has had a profound influence on Inuit textiles although she only began drawing and working with wool after moving to Qamani'tuaq at the age of 59," said Hopkins. "Her practice is characterized by its symmetry, which has been described as a kind of 'double vision.' Together, the works of Oonark, Kigusiaq, and Mamnguqsualuk represent a matriarchal practice, one that is explored through the making of nivingajuliat, and how this practice and their kinship informed their collages, prints, and drawings."

There will be plenty of other activities associated with the exhibition, such as workshops, consultation and digital programs for artists who still create nivingajuliat today and for residents from Baker Lake. There will also be a curatorial assistant placement for an Inuk student, which will be supported by the museum's institutional partner, the Inuit Futures in Arts Leadership: The Pilimmaksarniq/Pijariuqsarniq Project.

"We are thrilled to launch our 2022 programming with such a significant partnership," said Emma Quin, the Textile Museum's director and CEO. "Double Vision builds on years of museum exhibitions and partnerships that have focused on textiles that reveal deep Indigenous histories while sharing stories of the people who continue to shape textile practices today."

Drug bust in Rankin Inlet nets more than 25 lbs of marijuana

Kangiqliniq/Rankin Inlet

Rankin Inlet RCMP confiscated 25.7 lbs of marijuana, $15,600 and an all-terrain vehicle after executing a search warrant at a residence in the community on July 4.

Larissa Misheralak was arrested and charged with possession of cannabis for the purpose of selling, unlawfully importing cannabis into Nunavut, and possession of property obtained by crime over $5,000.

Also arrested was Dustin MacLean. He's been charged with possession of cannabis for the purpose of selling, unlawfully importing cannabis into Nunavut, possession of property obtained by crime over $5,000 and and failing to comply with an undertaking.

The RCMP encourage residents to continue to report suspicious activity by contacting their home RCMP detachment or by calling Crime Stoppers at toll-free 1-800-222- 8477 (TIPS), submitting a secure web tip at www.nwtnutips.com or text 'NWTNUTIPS' plus your message to 274637 (CRIMES).

– Derek Neary

Neighbours rally with fire extinguishers to limit damage from Iqaluit four-plex fire

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Occupants of a four-plex and firefighters avoided injury following a 7:45 a.m. fire in the 2200 neighbourhood of Iqaluit on July 7.

The City of Iqaluit credited neighbours for using multiple fire extinguishers to keep the blaze from spreading before fire crews arrived.

Four emergency vehicles and 11 firefighters converged on the scene and extinguished the flames. No injuries were reported by emergency personnel or occupants of the building, who were not displaced by the fire since damage was contained.

The municipality advised residents to clear storage from exterior stairs, landings and fire escapes. Also, garbage, recycling, construction materials and other flammable or combustible materials should be kept well away from the perimeter of residences, the city recommended in a news release.

"These items should be clear from underneath or on exterior staircases as this will block the occupants safe escape in case of fire," the news release states. "Storage on stairs will also impede first responders from gaining quick access for fires, paramedic or police assistance. Clearing these pathways and making our properties more fire safe will allow all emergency services to help you more quickly and safely in your time of need."