

Three videos from the Women's Collective of Igloolik

November 18, 2006 - March 4, 2007

Surrey Art Gallery

How does one experience the dawning of the third millennium in a small Inuit community in the midst of political and social change?



Since its beginnings in 1991, the Women's Video Workshop of Igloolik (Arnait Video Productions) has revealed the originality of its producers, the context of their work and lives, and their cultural values

Whether in the form of a series of interviews, or short works linking songs to the words and re-enactment of traditional activities, the videos celebrate the culture of women in Igloolik.

These videos express the artists' research into traditional and contemporary Inuit styles of narration. They also reflect the cultural values of the participants: respect for community events, for Elders, for hunting and fishing seasons, and traditions belonging to particular families.

For further information about the Women's Collective consult:

www.isuma.ca/archived/about_us/arnait

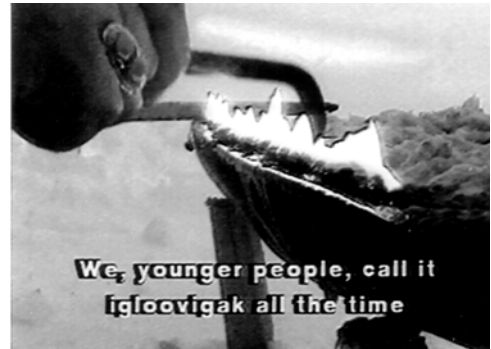
Learn about the newest project at:

www.beforetomorrow.ca

Videos from the Collective are distributed by
V tape (www.vtape.org)

All images courtesy Arnait Video Productions

About the Videos:



Qulliq (Oil Lamp)

1992 12:00 minutes, Inuktituk with English subtitles
The qulliq is the seal oil lamp and stove, the only source of light and warmth. Women tell the story in words and songs as they install the qulliq in their igloo.



Aqtuqsi (My Nightmare)

1996 5:00 minutes, Inuktituk with English subtitles
An Aqtuqsi is a dream from which one must wake up - a paralyzing nightmare. Colour and black and white video and computer animation, along with an Inuit song, were used to tell the story of the dream.



Ningiura (My Grandmother)

2000, 29 minutes, Inuktituk with English subtitles
Ningiura is an experimental fiction based on oral histories, traditional knowledge and the contemporary reality of Igloolik today. An elder and her granddaughter get to know and appreciate each other after a family tragedy.

Credits:

Qulliq (Oil Lamp)

Production Team: Susan Avingaq, Madeline Ivalu, Mathilda Hanniliqq, Martha Maktar, Marie-Hélène Cousineau

Cast: Susan Avingaq, Madeline Ivalu
Song by Susan Avingaq and Madeline Ivalu
Camera: Marie-Hélène Cousineau
Subtitles: Marie-Hélène Cousineau



Aqtuqsi (My Nightmare)

Director, Writer and Animator: Mary Kunuk

Cast: Cora Akkitiq, June Angugatsiaq

Singers: Susan Avingaq, Madeline Ivalu,

Annie Kappianaq

Camera: Marie-Hélène Cousineau

Editors: Mary Kunuk, Marie-Hélène Cousineau

Subtitles: Marie-Hélène Cousineau



Ningiura (My Grandmother)

Directors: Mary Kunuk and Marie-Hélène Cousineau

Writers: Mary Kunuk and Marie-Hélène Cousineau

Cast: Sylvia Ivalu, Rachel Uyurasuk, Rachel Kallirak, and Charlie Qulitalik, Bernice Ivalu, Flora Ungalaq, Marie David, Madeline Ivalu, Lucien Ukkalianuk, Susan Avingaq, Jose Kangok, Celina Uttuigak,

Johah Uyurasuk, Pakkak Inuksuk, Lou Paula Kunuk, Therese Ukkalianuk

Dancer and Masks: Eric Nutarariaq, Pat Nutarariaq, Annabell Piugatuk, Edward Taparddjuk

Acting coach: Marie David

Singers: Lucien Ukkalianuk, Susan Avingaq, Madeline Auksak, Rachel Uyurasuk, Madeline Ivalu, Music score and arrangements: Michael Reinhart

Additional music: Tuva

Recording: Slava Egorov

Camera: Marie-Hélène Cousineau

Sound and grip: Pacome Qulaut

Editor: Marie-Hélène Cousineau

Production assistant: Jerry Iyerak

Costumes and accessories: Micheline Ammaq

Translation: Zacharias Kunuk

Subtitles: Marie-Hélène Cousineau



Biographies:

MARY KUNUK is a founding member of Arnait Video Productions. An artist, print-maker and video maker, Kunuk has received NWT Arts Council and Canada Council grants to produce several experimental videos using computer animation.



SUSAN AVINGAQ is a regular participant in the Video Workshop since 1991. She was a key member of the production team for *Qulliq*, as writer, actor and musician. A renowned artist in the Baffin region she is active locally in teaching sewing traditions to younger Inuit women.



MADELINE IVALU has been a key elder participant in all the productions by the Video Workshop since 1991 as a cultural adviser, interviewer, storyteller, musician, actor and writer. Ivalu is president of Naluat in Igloodik, a women's sewing collective, and often represents Igloodik women to Pauktutit, the pan-Canadian Inuit women's organization.



RACHEL UYURASUK is an elder who participates in many of our projects. She was involved in the first video, *Women's Way* (1991). In the summer of 1999, at age 85, she played a major role in *Ningiura*. A former midwife, poet and singer, she once travelled alone to New Mexico to be part of a traditional storytelling festival.



MARIE-HÉLÈNE COUSINEAU is the founding Coordinator the Arnait Women's Video Workshop, and is its trainer as well as a collaborating producer. Cousineau was Associate Professor of Communications at Concordia University in Montreal (1997-1999).



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