

NOTABLE INUIT CARVERS

Here you will find a few examples of the many talented and renowned Inuit carvers who have made significant contributions to the field of Inuit art. Each artist brings their unique style, perspective, and cultural insights to their soapstone carvings, enriching the diverse tapestry of Inuit artistic expression.



Karoo Ashevak (1940-1974)

Inuit artist from Cape Dorset, Nunavut, Canada.

He is known for his innovative and imaginative style, often incorporating abstract and surreal elements into his soapstone carvings.

His works have been widely exhibited and collected internationally.

Kenojuak Ashevak (1927-2013)

A prominent Inuit artist from Cape Dorset. Although she was best known for her printmaking, she also created stunning soapstone sculptures. Her artwork often depicted Arctic animals and landscapes, reflecting her deep connection to the natural world.



Mother and Children- Government of Nunavut Fine Art Collection; on long-term loan to the Winnipeg Art Gallery

Kenojuak Ashevak's pieces have been highly sought after and have made a significant impact on the world of Inuit art. Refer to **Artist: Kenojuak** short documentary by **NFB**.



Joe Talirunili
Boat and Six Men
(c. 1965)-
Courtesy Art
Gallery of
Ontario © The
Artist

Joe Talirunili (c. 1893-1976)

Inuit artist from Puvirnituk, Nunavik, Quebec.

He is known for his intricate and detailed soapstone carvings, often featuring scenes of hunting, fishing, and everyday life. His work captures the spirit and essence of traditional Inuit culture and has been exhibited extensively.



David Ruben Piqtoukun
The Birth of Sedna, 2022-
Image Courtesy of The Artist. © David
Ruben Piqtoukun.
Photo: Charles A. Ross

David Ruben Piqtoukun (1950-present)

Inuit artist from Paulatuk, Northwest Territories. He is known for his contemporary and thought-provoking soapstone carvings, often addressing themes of spirituality, transformation, and cultural identity. His sculptures have garnered international acclaim and have been displayed in numerous exhibitions.



Image credit: Abraham Anghik Ruben *Birds, Animals, and Spirits*, 2014 Clara S. Peck Fund Purchase and in-kind by artist. 2014.9

Abraham Anghik Ruben (1951-present)

Inuit artist from Paulatuk, Northwest Territories, now based in Salt Spring Island, British Columbia. He is recognized for his large-scale soapstone carvings that explore themes of mythology, history, and cultural encounters between Inuit and European explorers. His work has been exhibited globally and has earned him numerous awards.