

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Award-Winning Exhibition of Inuit Printed Textiles Now Open at Glenbow at The Edison もっ ふゃ でんっくんく アクロ Textiles from Kinngait Studios showcases little-known story of remarkable mid-century textile initiative

**Calgary, AB – November 24, 2023** – A landmark exhibition of Inuit mid-century printed textiles is now on display at Glenbow's satellite gallery, Glenbow at The Edison.

Made for interior décor during a period when artist-designed textiles were popular in North America and Europe, these mid-century designs depict legends, stories, and traditional ways of life. They provide vital points of connection between contemporary Inuit community members and the creativity and resourcefulness of previous generations.

"Kinngait Studios has long provided the world with direct access to Inuit creativity and culture, while also helping Canadians to understand the importance of celebrating arts indigenous to these lands," says Glenbow President & CEO Nicholas R. Bell. "Glenbow is honoured to bring this exhibition to Calgary as a window into these artists' earliest collaborations with Canada's longest running atelier."

The exhibition features works by well-known graphic artists such as Kenojuak Ashevak (1927-2013), Pitseolak Ashoona (1904–1983), Parr (1893–1969) and Pudlo Pudlat (1916–1992), alongside interviews and oral histories from the Kinngait community and present-day Kinngait artists Johnny Pootoogook, Malaija Pootoogook, Ooloosie Salie and Ningiukulu Teevee. It also features new work from three contemporary Inuit fashion designers: Martha Kyak of InukChic, Nooks Lindell of Hinaani Designs and Tarralik Duffy of Ugly Fish.

"b'—à "CAC' Parinted Textiles from Kinngait Studios shines a light on the story of this textile initiative, an under-researched facet of the history of Inuit art and represents a largely unknown and unattributed body of work for many of the early artists," says Textile Museum of Canada Senior Curator Roxane Shaughnessy. "The voices and work of contemporary artists from Kinngait and other parts of Nunavut open up conversations about the continued relevance of these early printed fabrics, and their place and importance in the history of Inuit cultural heritage."

For more than six decades, West Baffin Cooperative has operated its Kinngait Studios, which is Canada's oldest fine art atelier supporting the practices of many of Canada's most important visual artists. In addition to drawing and printmaking, the studio is responsible for a number of innovative initiatives including a textile program in which the works in show were realized. West Baffin Cooperative celebrates is 65th anniversary in 2024.

## **Glenbow**

"This exhibition is a powerful example of Inuit innovation and leadership in the creative industries," says West Baffin Cooperative President Pauloosie Kowmageak. "Our studios aren't just Canada's longest running but also one of the most progressive and prolific in the country."

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## **About Glenbow**

Founded in 1966 as an independent, non-profit museum, archive, and gallery, Glenbow cares for an extraordinary collection of more than 250,000 works of art and historical belongings – from Canada and cultures around the world – on behalf of the people of Alberta. *Glenbow Reimagined* is a project to renovate the museum's 50-year-old building and provide a vibrant, thriving cultural resource in the heart of Calgary, committed to expanding the accessibility and impact of arts and culture. Glenbow's main building is closed as it renovates to become the JR Shaw Centre for Arts & Culture. While renovations are underway, visitors can experience exhibitions at the museum's satellite gallery, Glenbow at The Edison.

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