

Qulliq

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Oil lamp (qulliq) in soapstone with a base carved in the same type of stone.
A modern interpretation of the oil lamp once used by the Inuit.

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Artiste / Auteur JA?

Period 20th century

Materials stone, soapstone, wax

Measurements 9 x 27,5 x 13 cm

Historical context

Inspired by the Inuit oil lamp (qulliq in the Inuit language), this contemporary soapstone vessel departs from traditional models in its proportions, approximate triangular shape and polished, semi-gloss surface. In addition, its slightly tapered walls make it heavier than the lamps of yesteryear. Its stone base is a personal interpretation of the support formerly made of 3 or 4 sticks fixed vertically on a wooden base or on a platform of peat or hard-packed snow.

Inuit and their ancestors used the qulliq, a semicircular lamp fuelled by seal oil or whale blubber, for heating, lighting and cooking. From the late 19th century onwards, the qulliq was sometimes fashioned from

scrap metal. However, Inuit continued to carve stone qulliqs until they were replaced by gas burners, such as the iconic Coleman camping stove.

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