

# Sculpture

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Sculpture of a goose. Ink to draw the eyes.

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Accession Number 2021.59.19

Materials black ink, ivory

Measurements 4 cm

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Historical context

This delicate little walrus ivory carving appears to represent a Canada goose (nirliq in the Inuit language) stretching its long neck to feed. However, the lack of anatomical detail suggests that it could also be a snow goose (kanguq) or even a swan (qutjuk), judging by the length of the latter's neck. In fact, the white plumage of the snow goose and swan may well have inspired the sculptor to highlight the whiteness of his material, contrasted with the black of the eyes. Let's not forget that these three majestic birds migrate to the Far North in spring to breed, where they are the delight of Inuit hunters. In fact, the Inuit eagerly await the spring migration, being fond of Canada geese and snow geese as a dietary supplement.

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Photo by Michel Pinault