

Sculpture

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Soapstone sculpture of an Inuit fisherman.

Accession Number 2022.18.155

Artiste / Auteur Arnamissak, Jimmy Inaruli

Period 20th century

Materials stone, soapstone

Measurements 12,5 x 20 x 12,5 cm

Historical context

Steatite sculpture depicting an Inuk sitting on the ground (or pack ice) handling a seal (natsiq, in the Inuit language). Resting his right hand on the seal's forehead, the hunter exerts great effort by pulling, with a firm

grip, on the animal's rear flippers to lift it out of the water. To achieve this, the man pushes with his right leg, while sliding his heavy load close to his body, over his left leg. The well-defined, well-structured volumes and polished surfaces contrast with the satin-finish treatment of the hunter's face, one of the sculptor's techniques for emphasizing the whiteness of his figures' skin.

Signed Jimmy Smith, this work from the 1980s reveals the craftsmanship of the prolific Jimmy Inaruli Arnamissak (1946-2003) from Inukjuak, Nunavik. An artist who devoted his life to sculpture after starting his career in the late 1950s.

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