

Sculpture

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Soapstone sculpture of an Inuk with two seals (natsiq).

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Artiste / Auteur Tarkirk, Bobby Quppaapik

Period 20th century

Materials stone, soapstone

Measurements 9 x 13 x 12 cm

Historical context

This soapstone sculpture depicts a hunting scene by Bobby Tarkik. It dates back to the 1990s. This Inuit artist from Salluit (Nunavik) has been carving consistently since at least the 1960s. Prolific, Bobby

Quppapik Tarkirk (1934-) is clearly a craftsman. He is renowned for his small, distinctive scenes depicting everyday activities inspired by Inuit customs. He usually focuses on hunters, whom he stages on the ice floe or on a piece of ground. Here, after a successful hunt, a hunter dressed in his traditional qulittaq (parka) kneels and painstakingly lifts a large seal (possibly bearded) by the head, while a ringed seal (*Pusa hispida*) lies in front of him. The forms are simple and uncluttered. With sober detail, they offer a clear rendering of the situation.

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Photo by Victor Diaz Lamich