

Sculpture

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Steatite sculpture of a snowy owl spreading its wing.

Accession Number 2022.18.175

Artiste / Auteur Weetalktuk, Tommy

Date 1995

Materials stone, soapstone

Measurements 9,5 x 5 x 4 cm

Historical context

This small soapstone sculpture stylistically depicts a snowy owl, or uppik in Inuit. Spreading its disproportionately long right wing high above the ground (the owl actually nests on the ground), the bird brings

its shorter left wing towards itself. Note that this large diurnal bird of prey has been depicted with a very small head. Proportionately, this adds to the monumentality of the image, suggesting a large bird. In fact, the snowy owl (*bubo scandiacus*) is almost 50 cm tall, with wings that can spread up to 1.5 m!

Signed Tommy Wee, this dynamic animal representation can be attributed to Tommy Weetaltuk of Inukjuak, an Inuit archaeologist.

Dated 1995.

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Photo by Victor Diaz Lamich