News Release

For Immediate Release

Irene Avaalaaqiaq Tiktaalaaq awarded the 2024 Commissioner's Arts Award

Iqaluit, Nunavut (February 10, 2025) – The Honorable Eva Aariak, Commissioner of Nunavut, today announced the recipient of the 2024 Nunavut Commissioner's Arts Award honouring outstanding artists in Nunavut.

"It is an honour to recognize Irene Avaalaaqiaq Tiktaalaaq for her distinguished career in the arts," said Commissioner Aariak. "She is renowned for her drawings, prints, sculptures and her remarkable wall hangings. Her art is rooted in her life on the land and the stories and legends her grandmother told her. Her world view comes from an oral tradition that she expresses with bold shapes and contrasting colors."

The award, a cash prize of $10,000, is presented annually to an established Nunavut artist who has made a significant contribution to the arts during a lengthy career. The artist may have distinguished themselves in visual arts, performing arts or literature.

"The art of Irene Avaalaaqiaq Tiktaalaaq has gained international recognition for its originality and deep cultural storytelling. Through her unique creations she preserves and shares Inuit stories, culture and history with the world. She is committed to mentoring young Inuit artists, helping them continue the tradition of storytelling through art." said Commissioner Aariak.

The Nunavut Commissioner's Arts Award was created to honour the artistic achievement of established Nunavut artists. Nominations are reviewed by a selection committee, whose members have an in-depth knowledge of arts and culture in Nunavut. Nominees are judged on their artistic achievements and the quality and impact of their work.

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