

January 28th, 2011

Aumaaggiivik Newsletter

Artistic news from the Nunavik Arts Secretariat

In this edition:

- Makivik workshops 2010 in Tasiujaq ----- p.2
- Cirqiniq: a key phase begins ----- p.3
- Provincial award for the Dekshoo music video ----- p.5
- Art by five Nunavimmiut women exhibited in Montreal ----- p.5
- Art and writing competition for up-and-coming creators ----- p.7
- A young Nunavimmiut actress at the Sundance Festival ----- p.8
- Inukjuak winter jewellery course about to start ----- p.9
- Nipiit magazine seeks young contributors ----- p.10
- Ephemeral mural competition open to Quebec Natives ----- p.11
- Taqralik Partridge wins a literary award ----- p.12
- The Inukjuak women's hockey team on APTN ----- p.13
- Puvirnituk celebrates snow and Inuktitut this March ----- p.14
- Elisapie Isaac to launch *There Will Be Stars* in the United States ----- p.15

Makivik Workshop 2010 in Tasiujaq



Carving and jewellery workshops group
© Avataq Cultural Institute

The ninth edition of Makivik's annual workshop took place last fall in the Ungava Bay community of Tasiujaq. From October 26 to November 10, 33 artists and student artists participated in sculpture, jewellery, acrylic portraiture and caribou hair tufting workshops.

An annual classic, the sculpture sessions were led by Kuujuaq-based sculptor Joseph Jonas. As

well as carving soapstone (steatite), participants also had the chance to work with whitish sandstone from the neighbouring community of Aupaluk.

The jewellery workshops, led by Willie Watt, also of Kuujuaq, focused on jewellery creation using organic and mineral materials such as ivory, bone, caribou antler, whalebone, soapstone and various other local materials.

[Mance Lanctôt](#), artist in residence in Inukjuak for the summer of 2010 (Nunavik Fund for Arts and Literature grant recipient), led the acrylic portraiture sessions. The Montreal-based painter introduced her technique by having students paint portraits both from photographs and live models.



Acrylic portraiture workshops group
© Avataq Cultural Institute

Finally, Nunavik welcomed its first ever caribou hair tufting workshops. Artisan [Brendan Trennert, a.k.a. Inuk](#), from Hay River, Northwest Territories, led the very successful sessions.

According to training coordinator Sammy Kudluk, the people of Tasiujaq, along with local organizations, showed their commitment to making the event a region-wide success by generously providing materials and services on several occasions.



Caribou hair tufting workshop group
© Avataq Cultural Institute

The program ended on November 10 with an exhibition in the Tasiujaq school gym, where the general public had the chance to see all the pieces created during the workshops.

[Click here to see photos of the Tasiujaq workshops.](#)

Cirqiniq: a key phase begins



Cirqiniq workshop
© Dean Bareham

Cirqiniq, the circus-arts training program for Nunavimmiut youth, began an important phase last fall with the training of local junior instructors.

For two weeks, the communities of Kangiqsuallujuaq, Kangirsuk, Kangiqsujaq, Ivujivik, Quaqaq, Kuujjuaraapik and Kuujjuaq hosted two professional circus instructors. The guest instructors trained future junior instructors who will start teaching circus arts to local youths by the fall of 2011.

The following junior instructors were accredited:

- Richard Annanack, Kangiqsuallujuaq
- Eva Obed, Kangiqsuallujuaq
- Louisa Yeates, Kuujuaq
- Paulassie Pinguapik, Kangirsuk

The new instructors began their training in 2009 during a similar tour aimed at finding young Nunavimmiut suited to becoming junior instructors in their communities. Most of the apprentices attended an intensive training camp in the summer of 2010 at Cirque du Soleil headquarters in Montreal.

More junior instructors will be trained this winter in Umiujaq, Inukjuak, Akulivik, Salluit, Aupaluk and Tasiujaq.



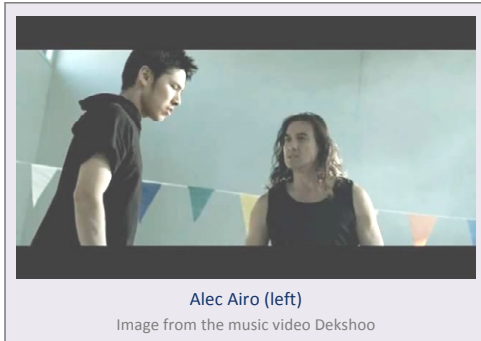
At the end of its second tour of the region, the Cirqiniq team will identify five communities to be revisited in the spring by professional instructors. The springtime visits will include practical training and mentorship for the selected junior instructors, with the goal of preparing them to teach circus arts in their communities.

What is Cirqiniq?

Cirqiniq is a circus program for Inuit youth in Nunavik to explore arts and culture through fun and physical activity. In collaboration with Cirque du Soleil and partnership with the Nunavik municipalities and Kativik School Board, *Cirqiniq* is run through the Kativik Regional Government in the Recreation department.

For more details about *Cirqiniq*, visit the [Facebook page of the program](#).

Provincial award for the Dekshoo music video



The video for the song *Dekshoo*, starring two young Nunavimmiut athletes, recently won the Gamiq Award for *music video of the year*.

Aisa Pirti of Akulivik and Alek Bryan Airo of Kuujuaq are the stars of the video, in which they face each other in a match of Inuit high kick, one of the most famous Arctic sports.

The [Gamiq](#) (Gala alternatif de la musique indépendante du Québec – website in French) presented the 2010 award for music video of the year to Radio Radio, a very popular hip-hop band in Québec. This year’s award is especially significant since including public votes for the first time.



Watch the video here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=6uBmAx00DGE

Art by five Nunavimmiut women exhibited in Montreal

From November 19 to December 19, 2010, the Centrale Powerhouse gallery in Montreal presented [Women of the Arctic](#), an exhibition of drawings and prints by five artists from Nunavik. Curated by Noémi McComber in collaboration with Avataq Cultural Institute, the show featured works by Maggie Kiatainaq, Jessie Koneak Jones, Jennifer “Janaiva” La Page, Laina Nulukie and the late Leah Nuvalinga Qumaluk. [Photos of the opening are available here.](#)

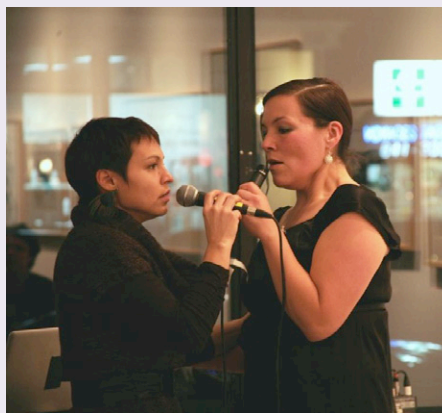
Aumaaggiivik Newsletter - Artistic news from the Nunavik Arts Secretariat - Avataq Cultural Institute - January 2011

The opening on November 19 began with a spoken-word performance by Taqralik Partridge with musical accompaniment by her artistic collaborator Guido Del Fabbro, and throat singing with Evie Mark

The next day the artists visited the gallery to present their works. Louis Gagnon, director of Avataq Cultural Institute's museology and Aumaaggiivik departments, led the event.



Jessie Koneak Jones, Maggie Kiatainaq, Jennifer « Janaiva » La Page and Laina Nulukie at the *Woman of the Arctic's* opening.
© Michel Patry



Evie Mark and Taqralik Partridge performing at the opening
© Michel Patry

During the show's first two weeks, Laina Nulukie, the Nunavik Fund for Arts and Literature artist in residence in Montreal, created drawings in a special area of the gallery.

There was also a film screening on the evening of December 16, hosted by Marie-Hélène Cousineau (Arnait Video Productions), attended by an audience eager to see short and medium length films made by women from the Canadian Arctic, including Elisapie Isaac's documentary [Si le temps le permet](#), which has won several awards, including the Jutra for best new talent and the Rigoberta Menchu Tum Grand Prize at Montreal's First People's Festival 2003.

The exhibition was a big success, attracting a large and diverse audience of Montrealers. The gallery is planning two more exhibitions in 2011 and 2012, showcasing visual artworks by Inuit women from other parts of Canada.

Art and writing competition for up-and-coming creators

For its 2011 edition, the Canadian Aboriginal Writing Challenge has expanded to become the **Canadian Aboriginal Writing and Arts Challenge**. In addition to the well-established writing competition, Nunavimmiut young people ages 14 to 29 can now enter a visual arts challenge and compete for cash prizes, by applying before the **March 31st** deadline.



The visual arts challenge

Nunavimmiut young people entering the visual arts section of the competition are invited to submit photos of works that illustrate a story or theme related to their people's history. Works must be two-dimensional – drawings, paintings, prints or photographs – and may be created in any medium (pencil, ink, charcoal, acrylic, watercolour, etc.). Each work must be accompanied by an explanatory text of 200 to 400 words.

Winners in each age category will receive \$2,000 and an expenses-paid trip for two to the awards ceremony, plus see their works exhibited in a Canadian art gallery. There are also cash prizes for second-place artists in each age category.

[Visual arts challenge details.](#)

The writing challenge

Nunavimmiut young people who want to enter the competition's writing section must write a literary piece based on a theme from their people's history or a traditional legend. Submissions may be written in prose, but can also take the form of a play, poem or movie script. The maximum length is 1,400 words for the 14-to-18 age group and 2,000 words for writers from 19 to 28. As in the visual arts section, a short explanatory text of 200 to 400 words must accompany each literary submission.

The winner in each category will have an excerpt from their winning submission

published in Canada's History magazine. They will also receive a cheque for \$2,000 and an expenses-paid trip for two to the awards ceremony. The ten finalists in each age category will also receive a cash prize.

[Writing challenge details.](#)

For teachers

The Challenge's organizers strongly recommend that teachers make the program part of their curriculum. A [teachers' guide](#) is available online.

Since 2010, the challenge has been run by the Historica-Dominion Institute, an independent organization dedicated to promoting Canadian history, identity and citizenship. The honorary patron of the Canadian Aboriginal Writing and Arts Challenge is Kangiqsualujuaq native Mary Simon, President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK).

Visit the [Writing and Arts Challenge website](#) here.

A young Nunavimmiut actress at the Sundance Festival

Adamina Partridge, from Kuujuaq, is one of the female leads in the Alaska-made film *On the Ice*, which had its world premiere on January 21 at the prestigious [Sundance Film Festival](#), one of the major independent movie festivals of the world. It's an interesting turn of events for the 25-year-old woman: the movie represents her professional cinematic debut.

On the Ice is a fictional feature directed by Inupiaq filmmaker [Andrew Okpeata Maclean](#). Adamina is the only Canadian in the all-Inuit cast. She won her major role after a series of auditions between September 2009 and March 2010 in Montreal and Alaska. For five weeks in the spring of 2010, she



took part in filming this story of a murder within a group of friends living in the Alaskan tundra. Adamina plays the part of the victim's girlfriend.

A third-year biology student at Concordia University, Adamina attended theatre workshops in the past and performed in several school plays. Her role in *On the Ice* was a revelation and an exciting adventure despite a few challenges, like filming outdoor scenes on the frozen Arctic Ocean in temperatures approaching -60°C. In the wake of the experience, the young Nunavimmiut plans to launch a movie career and hopes the Sundance appearance will open some doors.

On the Ice is in the official competition at the Sundance Film Festival in the American Drama section, which includes 15 other U.S.-made independent films. The winner will be announced on Saturday, January 29 during the festival's awards ceremony. In 2008, the Sundance Film Festival awarded the jury prize to Andrew Okpeata Maclean for his short film [Sikumi](#), which inspired him to make *On the Ice*, his first feature.

It's too soon to say whether the film will be released in Canadian theatres, but efforts to find a Canadian distributor are about to begin. The film should be released on DVD by 2012. For more information, visit the film's blog, [On the Ice – Behind the scenes](#).

[Inukjuak winter jewellery course about to start](#)



The winter session of the jewellery course offered by the Kativik School Board (KSB) at the Inukjuak jewellery studio will take place from January 31 to May 16, 2011. The course is open to adults from everywhere in the region, and accommodations have been arranged for students coming from other communities.

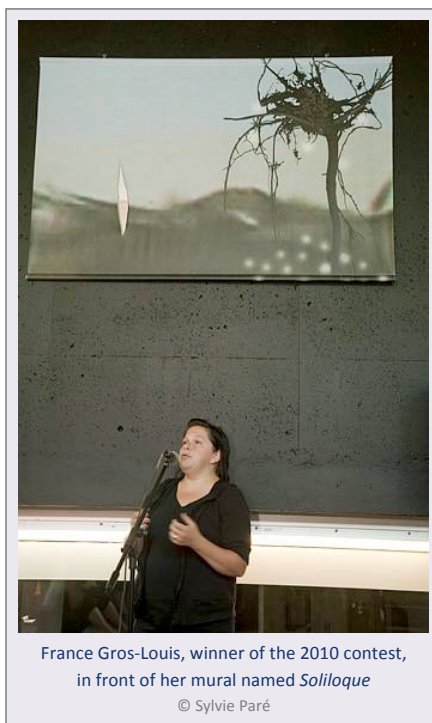
Although registration is now closed and the session's students have already been selected, it is still possible to have your name put on the waiting list by contacting

Ephemeral mural competition open to Quebec Natives

The Montreal Botanical Garden is once again holding its Ephemeral Mural competition. Nunavimmiut artists are invited to submit original concepts for a visual artwork (sculpture, painting, drawing, tapestry, photo, basketwork, collage, weaving, etc.) representing their relationship with nature.

This year, teams of two artists are also allowed to submit entries.

The winner will produce the work, which will be exhibited in the First Nations Garden at the Montreal Botanical Garden starting on June 21, 2011. The winner will also receive a \$2,200 cash prize. If the winner is a duo, the total cash prize will be \$3,400.



To enter, artists must submit:

- A letter of intent (description of the proposed mural)
- A text explaining the artist's approach
- A sketch or drawing of the proposal
- 10 slides, photos or digital photos of previous works
- A résumé
- A stamped, self-addressed envelope

Proposals must be submitted by **March 31** to:

Montreal Botanical Garden
First Nations Garden
4101 Sherbrooke Street East
Montreal, Quebec
H1X 2B2

For complete details, visit the [competition website](#).

You can also contact the contest coordinator, Sylvie Paré, at 514-872-9613 or spare@ville.montreal.qc.ca

The First Nations Garden at the Montreal Botanical Garden

The First Nations Garden, created in 2001, presents Quebec plant species in “natural” settings. It also presents the eleven First Nations of Quebec and describes the relationships they have always maintained with nature and especially with the plant world. A highly contemporary interpretation pavilion is located in the heart of the Garden.

In 2002 an Inuit garden was added, featuring many plants native to Nunavik, growing at the feet of an inukshuk designed and made by Charlie Arngak and Isaac Padlayat using stones from Deception Bay, near Salluit.



Isaac Padlayat and Charlie Arngak during the inauguration of the Inuit Garden, in 2002, at the Montreal Botanical Garden.

© Avataq Cultural Institute

Taqralik Partridge wins a literary award

Igloolik, a short story by Taqralik Partridge, won the 2010 QWF Writing Competition Prize, for Quebec’s best unpublished English-language writing. The prize is awarded annually by the Quebec Writers’ Federation.

The writer, originally from Kuujuaq, received the award during an [awards ceremony on November 23](#) organized by the Federation’s members at the Lion d’Or in Montreal.

Igloolik tells the story of an Inuit couple living in Montreal, and the man’s struggles to adapt to his new life in the south. The story was inspired by the writer’s observations of people she has known during her 13 years in Montreal.

Aumaaggiivik Newsletter - Artistic news from the Nunavik Arts Secretariat - Avataq Cultural Institute - January 2011



Taqralik Partridge
© Taqralik Partridge

The entire story is [available online](#) on the *Maisonneuve magazine* website.

In addition to her work as director of communications and publications at Avataq Cultural Institute, Taqralik Partridge has a performing arts career as a throat singer and spoken-word artist – a form of poetry delivered aloud by the author, in which the sound and rhythm of words are emphasized. You can listen to a selection of her spoken-word pieces on her [MySpace page](#).

The Inukjuak women’s hockey team on APTN

The first episode of the English version of the documentary series *The Uluit: Champions of the North*, about the exploits of Inukjuak’s women’s hockey team, will be shown on Monday, March 7 at 8:30 p.m. Eastern time on APTN. Produced by Arnait Video and Rotating Planet, the rest of the five-episode series will be shown on Mondays at the same time. The series is currently running in Inuktitut on Thursdays at 2 p.m. Synopses of each episode are [available on the APTN website](#).

The documentary tells “the story of The Uluit, an all female Inuit hockey team from Inukjuak, Nunavik. The Uluit cannot wait to lace up their skates for the hockey season. Under the Northern lights, they travel by foot and ski-doo against the extreme weather of the Canadian Arctic to get to the Inukjuak arena. This is an extraordinary group of women – daughters, mothers, sisters and friends – that are bonded by a sport they love and a way of life they cherish. Letting



us into their world with surprising candor, we discover the personal and emotional stories of Inuit women today.” – *The Uluit: Champions of the North*

[Watch the trailer](#) and visit the [series’ Facebook page](#).

Puvirnitug celebrates snow and Inuktitut this March

From March 21 to 26, Puvirnitug hosts the region’s biggest snow festival. Once again this year, the Snow Festival promises plenty of activities and celebrations.

This time around, the Inuktitut language is the focal point of the festivities: with the theme of “Reclaiming & Revitalizing Inuktitut,” the festival pays tribute to the language and invites the public to do the same.

As part of the theme, the ice, snow and soapstone sculpture competitions will all require participants to include a rare Inuktitut word in their works. The language will also be highlighted in daily performances by musicians and singers from the region. Performers will include Beatrice Deer, Florent Volland, Elisapie Isaac, a band from Akulivik, Pure Mystery (young band from Inukjuak), Kitura Annanack, Aqsaniit (Sylvia Cloutier, Miki Jacobson and Laakuluk Williamson), Suluk Fiddler and John Boudias.

The festival also includes all kinds of competitions: a 14-mile (22.5 km), dogsled race, a 7-mile (11.3 km) run on ice, an igloo-building competition, a target-shooting contest, accordion playing, tap dancing; kamik, parka, panak and uluk making; and several more

to be confirmed. The festival’s official opening on March 21 will be marked by drumbeats by young percussionists from Kangiqsujuaq, who will march with the Junior Rangers, celebrating their 15th anniversary this year.

For more information about the Puvirnitug Snow Festival, visit the [website](#).



Snow sculpture from the 2009 edition
of the Puvirnitug Snow Festival
© Denis Venne

Elisapie Isaac to launch *There Will Be Stars* in the United States

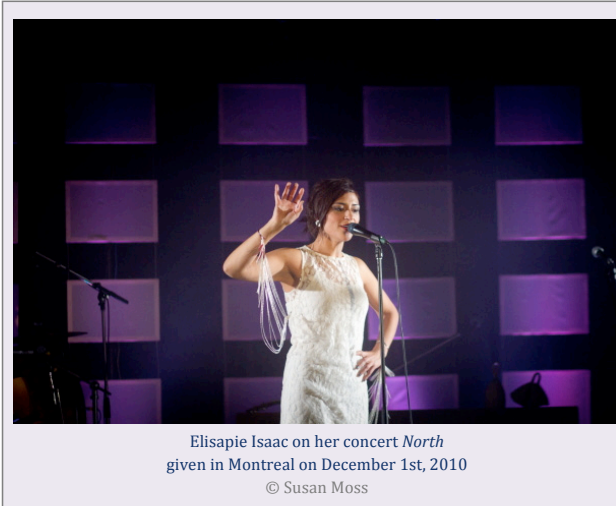
Salluit native Elisapie Isaac's rise in the folk-pop music scene shows no signs of letting up, and now she's working on her international breakthrough.

During the week of January 10, the singer and her band visited New York City to play at four major industry showcases – private concerts where artists perform for producers from around the world. She will

visit the city again in March for more showcases, where she will launch her album, *There Will Be Stars*, in the U.S. on the EMI label.

Elisapie will continue her Quebec concert tour until the fall of 2011. She is also working on her next album and making a new documentary.

For more details about Elisapie's recent trip to New York, see the articles (in French) on the [La Presse](#), [Canoe](#) and [Journal de Québec](#) websites.



Martine Dufour

Aumaaggiivik – Nunavik Arts Secretariat

514-989-9031 or 1-800-361-5029, ext. 243

mdufour@avataq.qc.ca

www.avataq.qc.ca/en/Aumaaggiivik

Avataq Cultural Institute

ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ