

Art Museum

ᑦᑲᑲᑦᑲᑲ (ᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲ)

Qaggiq: Gathering Place

Selected films by Isuma from an Inuit Point of view



I S U M A

Information about the videos on view

Please note: Films contain scenes of live hunting.

Screening Room 1



Nunavut: Our Land

Directed by Zacharias Kunuk, 1995

13 Episodes, 28 minutes each

Ongoing

Nunavut: Our Land is a 13-part series about the Igloolik region of the Arctic set in the 1940s. Based on stories by Elders, who share their experiences of life in Igloolik before the beginning of government-mandated settlement programs, it presents a nomadic way of life that is now little practiced. It follows the lives of five fictional families during the different seasons of the Arctic year. The series includes an encounter with a Christian priest, reactions to WWII, and learning how to track animals and manage a dog sled team.

Screening Room 2

ᐅᓂᓃᓕᐱᓴᓯᓕ ᓄᓂᓕ ᐅᑦᑦᑎᐅᓯᓐ

The Journals of Knud Rasmussen

Directed by Zacharias Kunuk and Norman Cohn, 2006

112 minutes

Screening times: Daily at noon, 2pm, 4pm and Wednesdays at 6pm

A collaboration with Danish filmmakers, the film takes as its point of departure the journals of Danish explorer and anthropologist Knud Rasmussen, who recorded his travels across the Arctic in the 1920s. During one of Rasmussen's trips, Igloodik shaman Avva opens up to him and shares his fears of the changes coming with colonialism, later regretting sharing this information. The film chronicles how Avva and his family are forced to accept colonial changes, as more white people begin to arrive in the Arctic and as Christianity gains a stronger footing in the region. Seen through the experiences of Avva, this film shows the impact of the loss of a belief system and its repercussions on an Inuit community.

—

Screening Room 3

ᐅᓂᐅᓕ ᑦᓃᐅᓯᓴᓯᓕ ᐱᓴᓴ ᓯᓴᐅᓕ ᐱᓯᓕᓕᑦᓕᓕᐱᓂᓴᓴ
(ᑦᓃᓴᑦᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴ)

Qapirangajuq: Inuit Knowledge and Climate Change

Directed by Zacharias Kunuk and Ian Mauro, 2010

54 minutes

Screening times: noon, 4pm

Produced in collaboration with Inuit communities, this documentary captures knowledge of climate change from an Inuit point of view. It is the first Inuktitut-language film about climate change and is concerned with the social and ecological effects of a warming climate as experienced in the Arctic. Featuring interviews with Elders and hunters, it explores Inuit knowledge about survival and adaptation. Changes in raven and polar bear populations are discussed, as well as thinning ice, changing winds, and major flooding. This documentary presents Inuit as experts on the Arctic and climate change as a human rights issue.

Screening Room 3

ᐱᐱᐱᐱ ᐃᐱᐱᐱ

Ataatama Nunanga: My Father's Land

Directed by Zacharias Kunuk and Norman Cohn, 2014

163 minutes

Screening times: Daily 1pm and Wednesdays 5pm

My Father's Land is a documentary capturing public hearings about the Iron Mines Corporation Mary River Project on North Baffin Island. In 2012, Inuit in the Qikqtani Region of Nunavut had the opportunity to take part in an official environmental review process for the proposed six-billion-dollar Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation Mary River Project. IsumaTV livestreamed the hearings, and some are included in this documentary. The film juxtaposes the hearings with scenes of Inuit everyday life, showing the ways resource extraction affects the region's habitat. The film also highlights Isuma's long-standing interests in new media as an important method for communication, facilitation, and engagement, emphasizing that language and translation are critical human rights issues, especially in hearings and legal proceedings concerned with Inuit lands and ways of living.

—

Screening Room 4

ᐱᐱᐱᐱ ᐱᐱᐱᐱ ᐱᐱᐱᐱ ᐱᐱᐱᐱ

Hunting with my Ancestors

Directed by Zacharias Kunuk, 2018

7 episodes, 30-50 minutes each

Ongoing

Hunting With My Ancestors is a series hosted by Zacharias Kunuk showcasing some of the best hunters in the Arctic. In addition to experienced hunters, Elders and youth as they learn and follow hunting practices developed over thousands of years. The series also considers the effects of climate change, government restrictions, and resource extraction in the Arctic, while communicating the significance of hunting to an Inuit way of being. Viewers can access the accompanying online

project, *Angunasugiirtillugit (After the Hunt)*, with additional clips and videos, including outtakes and interviews with Elders who take part in the series, as well as an archive of hunting knowledge, all available for free at Isuma.tv.

—

Offsite Installation

ᐅᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ ᐱᑕᐅᑦᑕᑦ ᐃᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ ᐅᐱ ᐱᐅᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ

One Day in the Life of Noah Piugattuk

Directed by Zacharias Kunuk, 2019
112 minutes

This film is a dramatized story of Noah Piugattuk, an Inuit Elder born in 1900 who passed away in 1995. It follows Piugattuk for 24 hours in the spring of 1961, starting with a seal hunt during which Piugattuk and other leaders encounter a government emissary who wants them to relocate their families and send their children to school. During Piugattuk's life, Inuit traditions declined and the signing of the Nunavut Land Claims agreement saw Inuit give up Aboriginal Title to 83% of their land and 98% of their mineral rights. This film is about colonial history, Inuit tradition, and the process of translation both linguistically and culturally.

Isuma's related installation for the Toronto Biennial of Art (TBA) 2019, *One Day in the Life of Noah Piugattuk*, is on view at the Small Arms Inspection Building, Mississauga, from September 21 to December 1, 2019. Visit torontobiennial.org

**TORONTO
BIENNIAL
OF ART**