

Kenojuak Ashevak

(Canadian, 1927 - 2013)



Thoughts of Sea and Sky, 1980

etching, ed. 25

paper: 15" x 17.75"

image: 8" x 9.75"

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Kenojuak Ashevak, Canada's most revered Inuit artist, was born at the south Baffin Island camp known as Ikirisaq in the fall of 1927. She grew up travelling from camp to camp on south Baffin and Arctic Quebec. Like many Cape Dorset artists, Kenojuak spent most of her life living on the land in a manner not unlike that of her ancestors. Her imaginative drawings, prints and carvings are sought the world over and reflect her experiences and life in the North. While her imagery is varied, she is best known for her eloquently designed animals and birds, especially the Owl. In 1967, she received the Order of Canada. She passed away in January 2013.

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Etching is an example of intaglio. Intaglio derives its name from the Italian intagliare, meaning to incise. Copper or zinc plates have a waxy ground applied to them, and an incising tool called a scribe is used to penetrate the ground. The plate is immersed in an acid bath, where the acid bites into the incised lines to emphasize them. When the plate is ready for inking, the ground is removed and the entire plate is covered in ink. The plate is then wiped clean on the surface and printed on damp paper, where the paper is forced into the etched lines and picks up the remaining ink, resulting in an image.

For more information on this work, or any of the prints from the AFK Editions, please contact:

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