

# Masterpieces of Kenojuak Ashevak: A Modern Printmaking Pioneer



## Program Summary

**Grades:** 1 - 6

**Duration:** 40 minutes

### Program Description:

Kenojuak Ashevak (ᑭᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃ ᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃ Qinnuajuaq Aasivak, 1927-2013) was one of Canada's most acclaimed artists. She is best known as a multimedia artist, of Inuit descent, that helped crystalize a unique style in printmaking now famous the world over. Her aesthetic blended semi-abstraction with naturalistic and organic forms. At the height of her career, she received the Order of Canada for her artistic contributions, and was featured on several stamps and the Canadian ten dollar bill.

This program will take place on Zoom. It is designed to be a collaborative lesson between the students and the museum facilitator. A week prior to your field trip, you will receive a teacher packet with information, handouts, and student supply requirements.

### Activities

- Explore three works of art by Kenojuak Ashevak.
- Read the Inuit creation story, The Origin of Day and Night.
- Create a story using figures from Ashevak's prints, or an ekphrastic poem for older students.
- Create a work of art featuring an arctic bird using Ashevak as inspiration.

### Program Goals:

- Students will understand and appreciate First Nation artist Kenojuak Ashevak and situate her work into the larger context of Inuit mythology.
- Students will think critically about animals as symbols in Inuit artwork and storytelling.

## Learning Targets

Students will:

- Describe the characteristics of, and, themes in, the art of Kenojuak Ashevak.
  - Discuss Inuit culture and creation folklore using the book, *The Origin of Day and Night* by Paula Ikuutaq Rumbolt.
  - Make text-to-self connections.
  - Ask and answer questions about the modern history of Inuit art making.
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## Learning Standards

### National Core Arts Standards

VA:Cr1.2.2a Make art or design with various materials and tools to explore personal interests, questions, and curiosity.

VA:Cr2.1.Ka Through experimentation, build skills in various media and approaches to artmaking.

VA:Cr2.1.1a Explore uses of materials and tools to create works of art or design.

VA:Cr2.1.2a Experiment with various materials and tools to explore personal interests in a work of art or design.

VA:Cr3.1.Ka Explain the process of making art while creating.

VA:Cr3.1.1a Use art vocabulary to describe choices while creating art.

VA:Cr3.1.2a Discuss and reflect with peers about choices made in creating artwork.

VA:Pr5.1.2a Distinguish between different materials or artistic techniques for preparing artwork for presentation.

### Common Core Standards:

- ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1 With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
- ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.2 With prompting and support, retell familiar stories, including key details.
- ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.3 With prompting and support, identify characters, settings, and major events in a story.

## Common Core State Standards continued:

- ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.4 Ask and answer questions about unknown words in a text.
- ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.7 With prompting and support, describe the relationship between illustrations and the story in which they appear (e.g., what moment in a story an illustration depicts).
- ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1 Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
- ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.2 Retell stories, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson.
- ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.3 Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details.
- ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.7 Use illustrations and details in a story to describe its characters, setting, or events.
- ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1 Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.
- ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.2 Recount stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures, and determine their central message, lesson, or moral.
- ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3 Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.
- ELA-LITERACY.W.K.2 Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative/explanatory texts in which they name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic.
- ELA-LITERACY.W.K.3 Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to narrate a single event or several loosely linked events, tell about the events in the order in which they occurred, and provide a reaction to what happened.

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## Contact Information

Caitlin Manwaring  
Education Services Coordinator  
cmanwaring@kenosha.org  
(262) 653-4424

[www.KenoshaPublicMuseum.org](http://www.KenoshaPublicMuseum.org)