DEPARTMENT OF
ART HISTORY & ART
CONSERVATION

Winter Term 2018
ARTH 348 / 3.0
Arts of the Arctic

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Norman Vorano
TIME: TBA
LOCATION: TBA
OFFICE: Ontario Hall, 306B
TELEPHONE: 613 533 6000 x77350
EMAIL: norman.vorano@queensu.ca
OFFICE HOURS: TBA

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

A study of the arts and visual culture of the Indigenous peoples of the northern circumpolar region encompassing Alaska, Canada and Greenland, with a main focus on Dorset, Thule and post-1950 Inuit arts. Students will examine the development of modern Inuit art markets, including reception, promotion and circulation in the south.

Prerequisites: None required. ARTH 120 strongly recommended.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Today, Inuit art accounts for roughly 10% of all art exported from Canada, although Inuit comprise less than 0.2% of Canada’s population. Art from the Arctic can be found in high-end art galleries and museums, homes and offices, airports and tourist shops. Exhibited around the world, it is a diversified $35 million a year enterprise that includes sculpture, printmaking, graphics, textiles, jewelry, video, photography and digital art. This course will contextualize the production and consumption of Inuit arts as a vital resource for the construction of social and cultural identities, as an economic driver, and as a political catalyst. We shall look briefly at pre-colonial and historical arts to appreciate the historical depth of Arctic visual traditions, but the class will predominantly focus on the “modern” era, beginning in the mid-twentieth century, and use social art historical, formal, and anthropological perspectives to explore particular entanglements between cultural intermediaries, artists, and audiences, which have given shape to the last six decades of Inuit art.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

A detailed list of readings and requirements will be available at the first class. The course will be part lecture and part discussion. Attendance and active participation at all class meetings is expected and will count toward the final grade. Assignments will include tests, a research paper, and a series of oral and written responses to assigned readings.