

**DEPARTMENT OF ART:
ART HISTORY & ART
CONSERVATION**

Fall Term 2014

ARTH 301/3.0

The Artwork as Material Object:

Arts of the Arctic

Instructor: Dr. Norman Vorano

Office: Ontario Hall, 306B

Email: nvorano@gmail.com

Office Hours: TBA



CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

A study of selected objects with a focus on materials and meanings.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Studies of the visual arts of the Canadian Arctic, with an emphasis upon Inuit engagements with fine arts and tourist markets in the twentieth-century.

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 in museums around the world, it is a diversified 35 million dollar a year enterprise and includes sculpture, printmaking, graphics, textiles, jewelry, video, photography and the web. This course will contextualize the production and consumption of Inuit arts as a vital resource for the construction of social and cultural identities, and as an economic driver across the north and increasingly in the south. We shall look briefly at pre-colonial and historical periods 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 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: Level 3 or above.

TEXTBOOK: TBA