

THE TURNER

“Sustaining Cultures: Native Peoples” is an exhibition that supports the ongoing validity in understanding what is culturally important to know. The communicative value of systems that reinforce the meaning of life, its necessary skills and the binding together a shared vision promotes is the underpinnings of societal groups.

We are fortunate that the Turner Print Collection can, with its images, demonstrate relevant individual cultural voices that speak to us. Printmaking is not a native art expression, but it has proved successful in sustaining myths, legends and a way of life.

Five Arctic communities are known for printmaking as a project to promote self-sufficiency and nationhood. These projects began in the 1950's by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources with governmental support to create a cooperative system.

The three sites most relevant to this exhibition are Holman, now known as Ulukhaktok, Baker Lake and Cape Dorset. These English names were not determined by the native population, but rather in honor of Englishmen as part of the Hudson Bay Trading Company's explorations.

While some art on display represents deceased artists, it is safe to say their legacy has lived on. Part of that legacy is the personal imagination of cultural extension combined with the continued exploration of printmaking techniques.

From the Turner Print Collection we are also able to include works that demonstrate other native cultures other than Inuit. The Aboriginal prints from Australia have a similar workshop background in production and the Pacific Northwest Coast Salish distinctive design is remarkable.

We are thankful for the loan of the Southwestern contemporary ceramics to celebrate the continuity in culture and how it can inspire respect, reverence and joy for a new audience.

Catherine Sullivan, Curator
Janet Turner Print Museum
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