

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 8, 2022

Contact: Robert Kardosh

Tel: 604-685-1934

Email: robert@marionscottgallery.com

INSIDE OUT: SHUVINAI ASHOONA

September 10 – October 8



Vancouver, BC — Marion Scott Gallery is pleased to present *Inside Out: Shuvina Ashoona*, an exhibition of new and older works by one of Canada's best-known artists. The solo presentation, Ashoona's fifth with MSG, brings together 19 works on paper produced between 2005 and 2021. The featured images explore the twin concepts of inside and outside, a duality that forms the basis of the Kinngait, Nunavut-based artist's idiosyncratic expression. Some of the works present indoor scenes that evoke domestic northern life, while others picture people and animals outdoors on the ice or rocks, giving a literal interpretation to the exhibition's title. This oscillation between

realms or worlds—the interior and the exterior—mirrors the dialogue between the real and the imagined that has always been a strong feature of Ashoona’s work.

Collectively, these images reveal a somewhat more subdued side of the artist’s expression compared to the one that most viewers of her work are used to seeing. The exhibition features less of Ashoona’s unrestrained fantastical imagery and instead focusses on a quieter, more grounded view of daily life and routines in Kinngait, a mood that is reinforced by the drawings’ generally more muted colour schemes. Several works in the exhibition picture women quietly at work, both alone and in groups. Others show people outside, either working or simply enjoying each other’s company. One large frieze-like drawing even shows some unruly children in parkas gleefully staring through a window into an empty classroom during the winter holiday.

The more restrained register notwithstanding, a few of the images do reflect Ashoona’s well known interest in depicting strange transformations and unusual hybrids. And, as is often the case with Ashoona’s imagery, even the quietest portraits in the exhibition, despite their warmth, are imbued with a strong sense of the uncanny. The stillness that marks these apparently ordinary portraits of everyday northern life is also, somehow, filled with tension. In a few instances, the viewer has the uneasy impression even that this is a world and scene on which some imminent transforming darkness or catastrophe is waiting to intrude or take possession of the occupants.

Shuvinai Ashoona (b.1961) is one of Canada’s foremost contemporary artists. Based in the remote northern community of Kinngait on southern Baffin Island, the third-generation Inuk artist has been gaining ever more attention, nationally and internationally, for her drawings and prints. Ashoona is the winner of the 2018 Gershon Iskowitz Prize, one of Canada’s top art prizes, and her work is currently featured in *The Milk of Dreams*, the central exhibition of the 59th Venice Biennale, where she received a Special Mention. Ashoona has had solo exhibitions at the Art Gallery of Ontario, The Power Plant, The Vancouver Art Gallery, and ICA Miami. Her work is in numerous private and public collections including the National Gallery of Canada, the NMAI Smithsonian, the Vancouver Art Gallery, the Art Gallery of Ontario, ICA Miami, Winnipeg Art Gallery and the Remai Modern.

PRESS INQUIRIES: Please contact Robert Kardosh at robert@marionscottgallery.com or by phone at 604-685-1934. High-resolution images are available upon request.

-30-

