

## *Among All These Tundras*

### Artist Biographies

#### **asinnajaq (Inukjuak, Nunavik and Montreal, Quebec)**

asinnajaq is an Inuit artist, filmmaker, and writer from Inukjuak, Nunavik. Her most recent film, *Three Thousand* (2017), blends archival footage with animation to imagine Inukjuak from the past into the future. *Three Thousand* won Best Experimental film at the 2017 imagiNATIVE media arts festival, and was nominated for Best Short Documentary at the 2018 Canadian Screen Awards. She is a laureate of the REVEAL Indigenous Art Award in 2017 and the Toronto Film Critics Association's Technicolour Clyde Gilmour Award in 2018. Recently, her work has been shown as a part of *INSURGENCE/RESURGENCE* at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. She is one of the curators of *Tillitarniit*, a three-day festival in Montreal which celebrates Inuit culture, and will be one of four curators working on the inaugural exhibition of Inuit Art Center in 2020.

#### **Laakkuluk Williamson Bathory (Iqaluit, Nunavut and Maniitsoq, Greenland)**

Laakkuluk Williamson Bathory is a Kalaallit performance artist and mask dancer in the *uaajeerneq* tradition, a storytelling performance that mixes humour, fear, and sexuality that she uses both as a cultural expression and a contemporary political statement. Although now based out of both Iqaluit and Maniitsoq in Greenland, she was born in Saskatoon where she trained and performed with her mother Maariu Olsen, a major figure in reviving the *uaajeerneq* artform during the 1970s. Bathory is one of the founding members of *Qaggiavuut!*, a community-based organization that supports the performing arts within Nunavut. Bathory is a frequent collaborator with renowned throat singer Tanya Tagaq, performing with her in 2015 as a part of the *#callresponse* project that brought together Indigenous women across the continent as well as Tagaq's *Retribution* (2016) music video.

#### **Carola Grahn (Malmö, Sweden and Kittelfjäll, Sápmi)**

Carola Grahn is a Sami visual artist based out of Malmö, Sweden and Kittelfjäll in Sápmi. Grahn works primarily with materializations of text, installation strategies and sculptural media. Her affective text- and sound-based sculptural installations lend poetic dialogue to the contexts of place, labour, and identity that are attuned to the slippages of language and representation in art while complicating cultural and gendered social constructions of the North. Carola is an internationally-known artist in northern Scandinavia and abroad, whose work has been shown at Southbank Centre, 2017 (London, UK), Carleton University Art Gallery, 2017 (Ottawa), Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba, 2017 (Brandon), Office of Contemporary Art Norway, 2017, Traante, 2017 (Nor), Havremagasinet, 2016 (Sweden), Art Centre Kulttuurikauppila, 2016 (Fin), Bildmuseet, Umeå (Swe), 2014, Galleri Jinsuni, Seoul, 2014 (South Korea) amongst other places. Grahn has been the guest editor of *Hjärnstorm* magazine 2017, she has written for *Afterall* (2017) and published the conceptual novel *Lo & Professorn* (2013). Grahn's work is also represented in the Swedish Art Council's collection.

### **Marja Helander (Utsjok and Helsinki, Finland)**

Marja Helander is a video artist and photographer based in Utsjok and Helsinki, Finland. Her multi-media practice draws from her Sami and Finnish ancestry. Helander explores themes related to femininity, identity and the tension between traditional Sami ways of life and modern Finnish society. Her recent work concentrates on post-colonial topics among Sami including industry and resource extraction in the North with photography and video art that feature the Northern landscape and Sami issues of modernity through a tragicomic lens. Although originally trained as a painter, Helander decided to pursue her interest in photography, graduating from the University of Art and Design in Helsinki in 1999. Since then she has presented works in solo and group exhibitions both in Finland and abroad, with many shows in northern Scandinavia, Canada, South Africa, and Mali. Her video work *Dolastallat* won the Kent Monkman award at imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival in Toronto, 2016. In 2017, Helander was chosen as the Finnish Cultural Institute in New York's artist-in-residency. Her recent short, *Birds in the Earth* won Risto Jarva Prize and the Main Prize in the National Competition in the Tampere Film Festival 2018 in Finland. Helander's works are also included in collections in several Scandinavian museums and in the National Gallery of Canada. Helander has also made a public artwork *So Everything Flourishes* for the Sami Cultural Centre Sajos, in Inari.

### **Kablusiak (Yellowknife, Northwest Territories and Edmonton, Alberta)**

Kablusiak is a Yellowknife-born, Edmonton-based Inuvialuk artist and curator. A multidisciplinary artist, they imbue a variety of mediums with their trademark ironic humour to address themes such as diaspora and mental illness. Nasogaluak Carpenter holds a BFA in Drawing from the Alberta College of Art and Design and recently completed the Indigenous Curatorial Research Practicum at Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity. Their installation *Mourn* (2017) was displayed at the Telus Convention Centre as part of The City of Calgary Arts and Culture Public Art Program and their piece *Untitled (That's AMori)* (2016) was shown on digital billboards across Canada as a part of the Resilience National Billboard Project in 2018. Nasogaluak Carpenter is the first recipient of the Primary Colours Emerging Artist Award and, along with three Inuit curators, will be creating the inaugural exhibition of the new Inuit Art Centre in 2020.

### **Sonya Kelliher-Combs (Nome, Alaska)**

Sonya Kelliher-Combs is an Inupiaq and Athabascan artist from the Alaskan community of Nome. Through her mixed media painting and sculpture, Kelliher-Combs offers a chronicle of the ongoing struggle for self-definition and identity in the Alaskan context. Her combination of shared iconography with intensely personal imagery demonstrates the generative power that each vocabulary has over the other. Similarly, her use of synthetic, organic, traditional and modern materials dissolves binaries of Western/Native culture, self/other and man/nature, to examine their interrelationships and interdependence while also questioning accepted notions of beauty. Kelliher-Combs's work has been shown in numerous individual and group exhibitions, including the national exhibition *Changing Hands 2: Art without Reservation* and the inaugural *Sakahān* quinquennial of Indigenous art at the National Gallery of Canada in 2013. Recent exhibitions include *Hide: Skin as Material and Metaphor* at the National Museum of American Indian Art in 2010 and the traveling exhibition *THIS IS DISPLACEMENT: Native Artists Consider the Relationship Between Land and Identity* in 2011.

### **Joar Nango (Alta and Tromsø, Norway)**

Joar Nango is a Sami and Norwegian architect and visual artist, born in Alta, Norway, and who currently lives and works in Tromsø, Norway. His varied practices often involve site-specific performances and structural installations which explore the intersection of architecture and visual art, drawing from both his Sami heritage and Western culture. Nango is a co-founder of the architecture collective FFB, who create temporary installations in urban settings. He has exhibited in Canada at Western Front (Vancouver, 2014) and Gallery 44 (Toronto, 2016) and internationally at 43SNA, Medellin (Colombia, 2013), and the Norwegian Sculpture Biennale at Vigelandsmuseet (Oslo, Norway, 2013). One of his recent projects was *European Everything* (2017) at Documenta 14 in Athens and Kassel, an extensive installation and performance which involved collaborations with Sami and European artists, writers, poets and musicians.

### **Taqralik Partridge (Kuujuuaq, Nunavik and Kautokeino, Norway)**

Taqralik Partridge is an Inuk artist, writer, curator, throat singer, and spoken word poet. She is originally from Kuujuuaq in Nunavik, although she now splits her time between Canada and Kautokeino in northern Sapmi. Partridge's writing focuses on both life in the north and on the experiences of Inuit living in the south, featuring a mix of influences from hip-hop to Inuit storytelling. Partridge co-founded the *Tusarniq* festival held in Montreal. Her performance work has been featured on CBC radio one and the BBC program and she has toured with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra. Partridge has also worked as Director of Communications for the Avataq Cultural Institute. In 2010, her short story *Igboolik* won first prize in the Quebec Writing Competition and the same year she was a featured artist onstage at the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver. In 2018, Partridge was named as a finalist for the CBC Short Story Prize.

### **Barry Pottle (Rigolet, Nunatsiavut and Ottawa, Ontario)**

Barry Pottle is an Inuk artist from Nunatsiavut in Labrador (Rigolet), now living in Ottawa, Ontario. He has worked with the Indigenous arts community for many years particularly in the city of Ottawa. Barry has always been interested in photography as a medium of artistic expression and as a way of exploring the world around him. Living in Ottawa, which has the largest urban population of Inuit outside the North, Barry has been able to stay connected to the greater Inuit community. Through the camera's lens, Barry showcases the uniqueness of this community. Whether it is at a cultural gathering, family outings or the solitude of nature that photography allows, he captures the essence of Inuit life in Ottawa. From a regional perspective, living in the Nation's Capital allows him to travel throughout the valley and beyond to explore and photograph people, places and events, as well as articulate and interrogate the emergent identity of an "urban Inuk." His projects have included the "Foodland Security" series which highlights the importance of access to country food in urban communities and the "Awareness" series which documents the history of the Eskimo ID tags and the elders who wore them. Mostly self-taught, his work is rooted in photojournalism. His work can be seen in the collections of the National Gallery of Canada, the Canadian Museum of History, and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada.

### **Inuuteq Storch (Sisimiut, Greenland and Copenhagen, Denmark)**

Inuuteq Storch is a Kalaallit visual artist, photographer, musician and author based in Copenhagen, Denmark and Sisimiut, Greenland. Storch received his photography certifications from the International Center of Photography in New York in 2016, and at Fatamorgana in Copenhagen in 2011. The artist's practice in photography, film, video, music and installation, incorporates archival and contemporary images to comment on colonialism and the present day impacts and realities of modernization on Greenlandic communities. He is the author of *Porcelain Souls* (2018), a collection of family photos and letters from Greenland in the 1960s, and anticipates a forthcoming publication this December. Storch has participated in several festivals and major international solo and group exhibitions including: *Old Films of the New Tale* (Sisimiut Culture House, Greenland, 2017) and *Run Away For Mother Earth* (Katuaq, Nuuk Culture house, 2012). His group shows include *Chirts & Cloves* (Nuuk Kunst Museum and Sisimiut Culture House, 2018), *Notas Al Futuro* (Espacio El Pasajero, Bogota, Colombia, 2017), and the *Pop Up Archive Exhibition, MANA* (New Jersey, 2017).

### **Couzyn van Heuvelen (Iqaluit, Nunavut and Toronto, Ontario)**

Couzyn van Heuvelen is an Inuit artist born in Iqaluit but who has lived most of his life in Southern Ontario. His artistic practice blends modern fabrication techniques with Inuit tradition to create "hybrid" objects that explore both cultural tensions and synchronicities. Van Heuvelen holds a BFA from York University and an MFA from NSCAD University. His work has been included in several group exhibitions across Canada. Recently, van Heuvelen created an aluminum qamutik sculpture at the Southway Inn in Ottawa, Ontario for the *Lost Stories Project* commemorating the historical significance of the hotel being a landing point for Inuit traveling south for school, employment and medical care. In 2017, van Heuvelen was chosen as the Sheridan College Temporary Contemporary Artist in Residence and the subsequent work, *Nitsiit* (2017) was featured at Sheridan's Hazel McCallion Campus in Mississauga.

### **Allison Akootchook Warden (Kaktovik and Fairbanks, Alaska)**

Allison Warden is an Iñupiaq interdisciplinary visual and performance artist who raps under the name AKU-MATU. She was born in Fairbanks, Alaska with close ties to Kaktovik, Alaska and is now based in Anchorage. Warden's practice weaves together Iñupiaq narratives and traditions from the past, present, and imagined futures. She is the creator of one-woman show, "Calling All Polar Bears" which in 2011 was part of a National Performance Network residency. Her most recent work is *Unipkaagusiksuguvik* (the place of the future/ancient) at the Anchorage Museum in Alaska in 2016, featured an extensive performative installation piece in which she was present in the gallery for 390 hours over two months. As AKU-MATU, she performed at the Riddu Riddu Music Festival in 2018 as part of the Inuit Circumpolar Hip-Hop Collaboration. In 2018, Warden was awarded the Rasmuson Individual Artist Fellowship in the new genre category.