

BURNABY ART GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Kenojuak Ashevak, *Sun Owl*, 1963, stone-cut on paper, 61.0 x 76.0 cm, 33/50, promised gift of Diane and David Bond.
Photographed by Scott Massey of SITE Photography.

KENOJUAK ASHEVAK

BURNABY, BC – Generously donated by Diane and David Bond, the Burnaby Art Gallery is pleased to announce the display of *Sun Owl* by Kenojuak Ashevak.

Considered one of the most notable pioneers of modern Inuit art, Kenojuak's works has been exhibited numerous across Canada. One of her most celebrated images, *Sun Owl*, exemplifies Kenojuak's ongoing subject, the owl. "I am the light of happiness and I am a dancing owl," says Kenojuak in the 1978 publication *Landmarks of Canadian Art*. In 1963, *Sun Owl's* original drawing was included in the Cape Dorset Annual Print Collection, which was cut into stone and printed by fellow Inuit print artist, Iyola Kingwatsiak.

This showcase honours Kenojuak who has contributed greatly to Canadian art. *Sun Owl* is on display until January 27, 2013, at the Burnaby Art Gallery.

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Artist Biography

Kenojuak Ashevak (October 3, 1927- January 8, 2013) was born in Ikirasaq, Baffin Island. As one of the first Inuit women in Cape Dorset to begin drawing during the 1950s, she has developed a prolific career in which she has produced thousands of drawings, etchings, stone-cuts and prints—all sought after by museums and collectors. Kenojuak received the Order of Canada for her contributions to Canadian art and her designs have been celebrated on stamps and coins in Canada. Canada Post stamp series include: *Enchanted Owl* (1960) for the centennial of the Northwest Territories, *Return of the Sun* (1961) for Inuit stamp series and *The Owl* (1969) for the *Masterpieces of Canadian Art* series. In 1999, *Red Owl* was featured on the 1999 Millennium quarter series, with her initials appearing in Inuktitut (the first time the language appeared on coin circulation). Since then, Kenojuak has received honorary doctorate degrees from both Queens University and the University of Toronto, and was included in Canada's Walk of Fame. In 2008, she received a Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts. Kenojuak died in Cape Dorset, Nunavut on January 8, 2013.

MEDIA CONTACT

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The Burnaby Art Gallery is dedicated to collecting, preserving and presenting a contemporary and historical visual art program by local, national and internationally recognized artist. As the stewards of the third largest public art museum collection with the Province of British Columbia, the Burnaby Art Gallery cares for and manages over 4,000 works of art. The Burnaby Art Gallery is a nationally recognized leader in print culture dedicated to showcasing original hand pulled prints and ephemera related to printmaking in Canada.

For more information about the gallery's exhibitions, programs, and tours, call 604-297-4422 or visit www.burnabyartgallery.ca. Located in the beautiful surroundings of Deer Lake Park, the Burnaby Art Gallery is open Tuesday to Friday, 10:00am to 4:30pm and on Saturday and Sunday, 12noon to 5:00pm. Admission is by donation; parking is free.

The Burnaby Art Gallery acknowledges the generous support provided by: the City of Burnaby; the British Columbia Arts Council; the Province of British Columbia, its patrons and visitors.