



THE GOVERNOR GENERAL · LA GOUVERNEURE GÉNÉRALE

**Message from the Governor General on the occasion of the
opening of the *Ashoona: Enduring Art Stories* exhibition
presented by the Canadian Guild of Crafts**

Art takes us on a thought-provoking journey of discovery that lets us see our society, our country, our world through the artists' imagination. There is a great need for this unique point of view!

Ashoona: Enduring Art Stories is a multigenerational exhibition that pays beautiful tribute to Pitseolak Ashoona, one of the premier graphic artists from Kinngait (Cape Dorset), Nunavut, and a pioneer of Inuit art. Her work has inspired generations of Inuit artists and played an important role in passing on traditional values and knowledge.

Curated by Goota Ashoona, the exhibition presents the work of 23 artists from the Ashoona family, whose creative development and skill are showcased through contemporary art. These carefully selected works highlight the dynamism of the creators' artistic exploration and the diversity of their practices and achievements over time. The prolific body of work produced by the Ashoona family encompasses the many facets of Inuit art and uses a wide variety of media and materials, from soapstone to whalebone, paper to metal.

Thank you to the Canadian Guild of Crafts and to everyone who has put this incredible exhibition together. And special thanks to you, Goota. You have brought to light how Inuit artists represent our people and how we see ourselves. Art has the ability to connect us to one another. You have helped us to come together through art and to build bridges between generations and culture.

Bravo! I wish you all much success with this exhibition.

Handwritten signature of Mary Simon.

Mary Simon