

# DIGITAL **AGNES**

Agnes Etherington Art Centre at Queen's University  
agnes.queensu.ca

## **Looking at stonecut prints**

AGNES Learns  
2020

### **SPEAKERS**

Charlotte Gagnier

### **KEYWORDS**

Inuit Art, Printmaking, Stonecut Prints, Grade 4-6, School Resource, Agnes Learns, Children's Education

### **TRANSCRIPT**

**Charlotte Gagnier:** This work is titled Winter Camp Scene and is a type of print called a stone cut. Stone cut printmaking is used primarily by Inuit artists and is made through the collaboration of two people: an artist and a printmaker. The artist creates an original image or drawing. The printmaker copies that image onto a flat piece of stone, such as slate, and cuts away a layer of the surface, leaving only the sections that make up the image raised. They apply ink onto this raised surface and make a print by placing paper on top of the stone and rubbing across the surface. This stone cut is by an artist named Pitseolak Ashoona and a printmaker, Eegyvudluk Pootoogook. Pitseolak is remembered as an outstanding artist who chronicled the old ways, the traditional Inuit way of life that she had known from personal experience. With just a few colours, lines, and shapes, she and the printmaker have created an incredibly rich image that contains lots of information. Let's have a look at what we can see. The focus of the image is four igluit, or snow houses. There's lots of activity going on around these structures. The iglu in the centre of the print looks like it's still being made. We can see the hands of someone who's inside the structure. It looks like they're placing a block of snow. Another person is crawling on top of the iglu and is holding a pana, or snow knife, in their hand. In the lower right corner of the print, you can see a woman and a child. She's wearing a parka, called an akuq. It can fit a child in the back section, and the large hood covers both of them and keeps them warm. Beside them, a sneaky dog looks like he's trying to steal some food.