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U.S. Inuit Art Society Picks Hamilton, ON for Its First Ever Canadian Annual Conference

WEST BLOOMFIELD, MI, September 1, 2011 - The Inuit Art Society, a U.S.-based organization whose membership is committed to celebrating the arts of the Arctic, will hold its first ever annual conference and meeting across the border in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada this October. The conference, which is titled *Bringing the Power of Inuit Imagery to the Marketplace and Beyond: Inuit Expressions in Sculpture, Print and Tapestry*, will feature three recognized Inuit artists. They include Inuit sculptor, **Billy Gauthier**, Inuit sculptor and printmaker, **Tim Pitsiulak**, and Inuit stencil printmaker, **Noah Maniapik**. Rounding out the program will be Judith Varney Burch, a noted Inuit culturalist and Hamilton's own Emily S. Cowall, an Inuit ethno-historian and visual anthropologist.

The conference, which begins Thursday evening Oct. 27 and runs through mid-day on Sunday, October 30, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Hamilton, will feature a series of forums, lectures and demonstrations, along with field trips to further enhance attendees' understanding of Inuit history and exposure to Inuit art. There will be visits to Hamilton's Chedoke Hosipital (site of the former Mountain Sanatorium), Woodlawn Cemetery, the Inuit art showroom at the North West Company in Mississauga, and the Museum of Inuit Art and Feheley Fine Arts in Toronto.

The traditional Saturday evening group dinner, also at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, will feature Arctic char and a variety of wild game. Both society members and non-members are welcome. Full conference details and registration materials can be found on the Society's website --- inuitartsociety.org.

About the Inuit Art Society

The Inuit Art Society was formed in Indianapolis, IN in 2003. Since then, the 501(c)3 organization has held a series of annual meetings throughout the mid-west that have brought artists, collectors, dealers, and educators together to immerse themselves in the study of a wide range of Inuit-related topics. Films, lectures, tours, and, above all, demonstrations by Inuit artists have contributed to a growing appreciation of the remarkable creativity and hardiness of the native peoples of the Artic.