

ESKIMO ART IN THE U.S.S.R.

A major exhibition of Canadian Eskimo art, called "Sculpture of the Inuit", which opened on June 29 in the Hermitage Museum in Leningrad, is at present in Moscow, where it will remain until September 10.

The exhibition, presented under the auspices of the Canadian Government, comprises 405 pieces representing contemporary Eskimo sculpture and the sculpture of Arctic cultures of the past. "Sculpture of the Inuit" was organized by the Canadian Eskimo Arts Council and received some financial support from the Canada Council.



Mr. R.A.D. Ford, Canadian Ambassador to the U.S.S.R., opened the exhibition in Leningrad before an invited audience of 200. The Canadian delegation included Doris Shadbolt, Curator of the Vancouver Art Gallery, two Eskimo artists and André Fortier, Director of the Canada Council, who made the opening address.

The display, Mr. Fortier stated, was both the largest selection of Canadian sculpture ever to be shown abroad and the first to be shown in the Soviet Union. Eskimo carving at its best, he claimed, could stand comparison with the great art of any culture.

The exhibition has already been shown in Vancouver, Paris and Copenhagen.

Above — Greenstone statuette (1968-69) by Kenojuak of Cape Dorset, representing an Eskimo family with a puppy.

Upper right — Miniature mask in ivory, Dorset Culture, dated by Carbon 14 test about 500 B.C.

Opposite — Piece of caribou antler engraved with human faces. Old Dorset Culture, Igloolik area.

