

Kablusiak

Kablusiak is an Inuvialuk artist and curator based in Mohkinstsis and holds a BFA in Drawing from the Alberta University of the Arts. Kablusiak is a board member of Stride Gallery (2016-present). Awards include the Alberta Foundation for the Arts Young Artist Prize (2017) and the Primary Colours Emerging Artist Award (2018) and most notably they have been shortlisted for the **2019 Sobey Award** representing the Prairies and the North. A multi-disciplinary artist, they imbue a variety of mediums with their trademark ironic humour to address cultural displacement. The light-hearted nature of their practice extends gestures of empathy and solidarity; these interests invite a reconsideration of the perceptions of contemporary Indigeneity. Kablusiak, along with three Inuit curators, will be creating the inaugural exhibition of the new Inuit Art Centre in 2020. Recent exhibitions include *akunnirun kuupak* at the Art Gallery of Alberta, *Among All These Tundras*, Leonard & Bina Art Gallery, Montreal, and *Qiniqtuaq* at the Esker Foundation, Calgary. Kablusiak's work can be found in the collections of the Indigenous Art Centre, the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, the Art Gallery of Alberta, the Banff Centre for the Arts, and numerous collections across Canada. Kablusiak is represented by Jarvis Hall Gallery in Mohkinstsis/Calgary, Alberta.

akunnirun kuupak stems from a trip back to Inuvik, part of Kablusiak's ancestral territory, in the summer of 2018 as part of the TD North/South Exchange residency program. The residency trip marks the first time Kablusiak returned to the area as an adult. During the residency period, Kablusiak had the chance to remount their performative ghost series, which they have been working with over the past several years. The ghost serves as a foil for understanding their identity as an urban Inuk who is part of the growing Inuit diaspora. In bringing the ghost performance to Inuvik after a long absence and presenting the culmination of this work in Edmonton, Kablusiak reconnects to an important part of their being while simultaneously creating a presence for Inuit wherever they may be.

-Jessie Short / Curator / Writer / Artist