

FORT GANSEVOORT

HYPERALLERGIC

A View From the Easel

Welcome to the 323rd installment of A View From the Easel, a series in which artists reflect on their workspace.

Lakshmi Rivera Amin – February 5, 2026

Pitseolak Qimirpik, Kinngait, Canada



How long have you been working in this space?

Five years ago, I started making graphic art at Kinngait Studios and now make drawings, prints, and carvings. I started carving stone sculptures when I was 14 years old (in 2000), a skill I learned from observing my father, the carver Kellypalik Qimirpik.

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Describe an average day in your studio.

I work outside, carving and shaping the stone. Outside my house, I have a table, an extension cord, and tools. It's very cold and I have to wear all my winter clothes. When it's too cold, I do the filing and finishing work inside after I shape it outside. I listen to all kinds of music. I listen to Eminem all the time; his albums are all my favorites. For drawings, I work at Kinngait Studios or at home on my kitchen table.

How does the space affect your work?

I am influenced by the landscape, Arctic animals, and Inuit culture where I live. I am also influenced by cartoons like *The Simpsons*, Nintendo, DC comics, and movies. I like mixing both influences together in my work. Last year, I had a bigger space to work in at the studio, and I started making big mosaic drawings made of many sheets of paper that I arranged on the walls. These works will be in my solo exhibition at Fort Gansevoort in New York this month.



How do you interact with the environment outside your studio?

Kinngait has a very strong artist community. I am always surrounded by other artists, young and old, who work in Kinngait Studios and are part of the cooperative. There are third- and fourth-generation Inuit artists who are now working in the studios. There is a lot of artistic production and exchange happening. The younger artists learn from older generations, like I learned carving from my father, but we also make art our own way.

What do you love about your studio?

I like that it makes good money. It buys extra food.

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What do you wish were different?

I like it all!

What is your favorite art material to work with?

Soft stones are my favorite. I like serpentinite, soapstone, and stone from Quebec because they are soft and easy to work with.

I also like to work with mixed media and experiment with different combinations of materials. For my sculptures, I add materials like carved caribou antler, plastic wire, and faux sinew for the details of the carved stone figures. I use a lot of colored pencils and acrylic markers in my drawings, and I am also now using acrylic on my stone sculptures, too. My drawings and carvings are the same: same shapes, same animals, same world.