I AM INUIT
FEB. 24 – SEPT. 17

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I AM INUIT is a project of the Inuit Circumpolar Council and the Anchorage Museum and is made possible, in part, by:

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Drawings by Becka Olson

FEB. 24 - SEPT. 17
ANCHORAGE MUSEUM

MAY 8 - MAY 31
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA
FAIRBANKS ART GALLERY

iaminuit.org
TAKE NOTE OF WHAT YOU SEE

Explore I AM INUIT online or in the galleries.
What do you notice? Sketch a detail of an image. Write down a question that comes to mind when you look at a photograph.
Make this space your own for your observations and reactions.

For over 5,000 years, Inuit peoples have lived in circumpolar regions of the world. Inuit culture thrives today, with approximately 160,000 Inuit living throughout the Arctic. In the exhibition I AM INUIT, artist Brian Adams connects the viewer to Alaskan Inuit people [Inupiat, Yup’ik, Cup’ik, and St. Lawerence Island Yupik] through images and stories.

HOW TO EXPLORE:

Whether visiting the exhibition in the gallery or online, here are some tips for exploring I AM INUIT and using this journal.

Slow down and look closely. Each picture has a story to tell.

Ask questions. Be curious about details. Find out more at iaminuit.org.

Make this journal yours. You don’t have to follow the prompts. Use the pages to draw, write, and note in your own way.

Share. Tell a friend, a family member, or mentor about your experience.

The Indigenous peoples living in areas of Alaska, Greenland, Northern Canada, and Russia.
The United States is an Arctic nation because Alaska lies above the Arctic Circle. For the people who reside in Alaska’s Arctic, place is not a curiosity, nor is it an untouched wilderness. It is home. Four million people live in the Arctic today.

I AM INUIT is an Inuit Circumpolar Council Alaska project that seeks to connect the world with Alaskan Inuit (Inupiat, Yup’ik, Cup’ik and St. Lawrence Island Yupik) and the Arctic through common humanity.

Beginning in 2015, photographer Brian Adams traveled to Alaskan Arctic villages to document portraits and stories of people, as well as the landscape, as a way to promote understanding, and to connect many people outside the region to the Arctic.

Places represented include Quinhagak, Teller, Shungnak, Utqiaġvik, Point Hope, Wainwright, Anaktuvuk Pass, Kaktovik, Kotzebue, Buckland, Noorvik, Noatak, Nome, Shishmaref, Shaktoolik, White Mountain, Bethel, Hooper Bay, Alakanuk, and Tuluksak, as well as more urban places like Anchorage.

Photos and stories are also shared on I AM INUIT’s social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Tumblr), and on a website dedicated to the project: www.iaminuit.org.

Artist Brian Adams takes photographs of places where people live and make their homes. Create an image of a place where you feel most at home. Notice that overlaying the self-portrait will put you in this place!
Carved wooden maps like these have been used by Inuit in Greenland to map the coastline. These maps are meant to be held and touched. Maps like these might be used with a detailed story or a drawing in the snow to share information about an important place. How is this map similar or different from maps you have seen and used?
Artist Brian Adams creates portraits of his subjects by taking photographs and documenting personal stories. Create a portrait of yourself with drawing, writing, or both.
KEY TERMS

[drying racks]: Racks made of birch bark, used to dry out meats and skins.

[arctic circle]: An imaginary circle around the Earth, about three quarters away from the equator to the North Pole.

[sour dock leaves]: Iñupiaq name qaugap: Slightly toothed green leaves.
Maps can take many different shapes and forms. How do you represent your world? Create your own map of the place in which you live.

**KEY TERMS**

[ulu] (ˈʊˌlʊoʊ): Short-handled knife with a crescent-shaped blade. Used to chop, carve, and skin.

[muktuk] (ˈmɔk,tək): The skin and blubber of a whale.

[ice cellar]: Iñupiaq ice cellars are dug into the permafrost and are used to store traditional foods throughout the year.

[kuspuk] (ˈkəs.pək): An over-shirt with a large pocket and hood.
Invite a friend or family member to share a story about a place where they feel at home. Document that story through writing, drawing, or both.

Subsistence hunting of the bowhead whale is important to Inuit people. Inuit living in Alaska hunt the whale in the spring as the whale migrate north, and in the fall from skin boats, or umiaks, as the whales return south. A successful whale hunt is cause for great celebration. Growing to be as large as 59 feet, the bowhead provides meat and muktuk for the entire community. The baleen and bone are also used for creating tools and art.
**KEY TERMS**

**[parka] (/'pärkə/):** Winter coat with a hood, usually lined in fur. Traditionally made from caribou or seal skin.

**[subsistence]:** Use of wild, renewable resources from the land by individuals, families and communities for food, shelter, fuel, and other essential needs that are fundamental to a way of life.

**[umiak] (/ʊməæk):** Traditional Iñupiaq boat made with skin stretched over a wooden frame.