

KABUBUWA (QAVAROAK) TUNNILLIE



HUNTER WITH BEAR (C.1965-66)

SERPENTINE

ATTRIBUTION CONFIRMED TERRANCE RYAN (DFA), NORMAN ZEPP, & DEREK
NORTON

INUIT

CAPE DORSET, NUNAVUT TERRITORY, CANADA

1928-1993











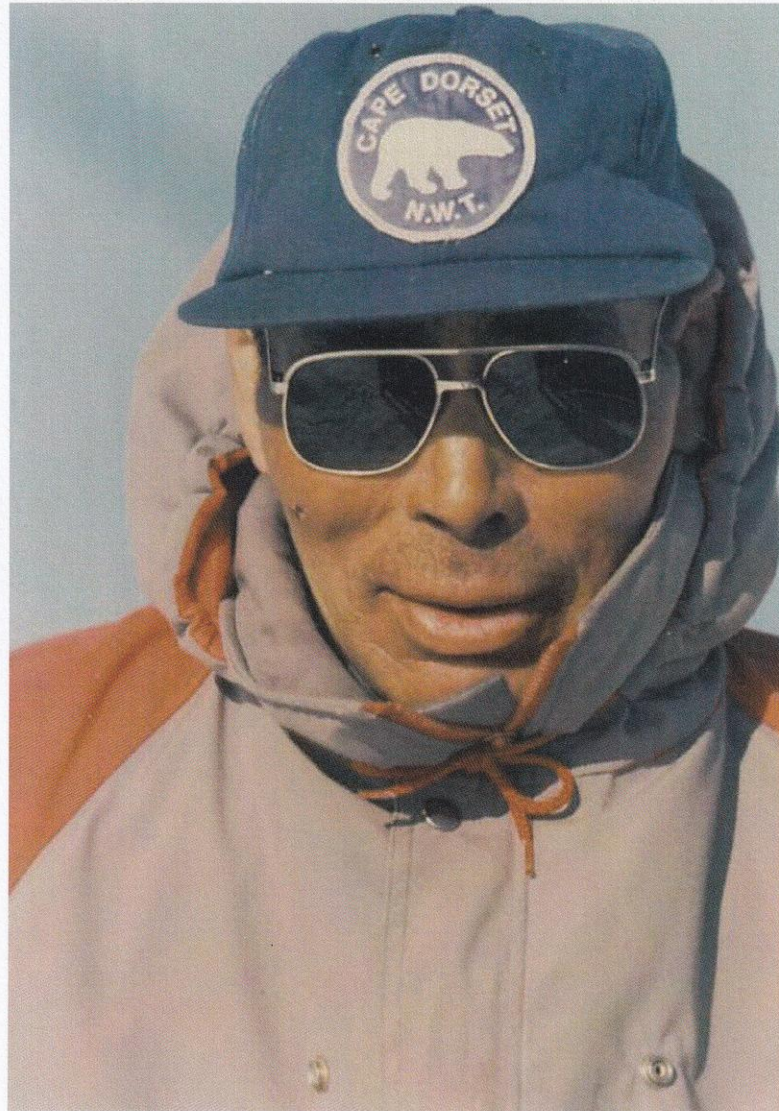








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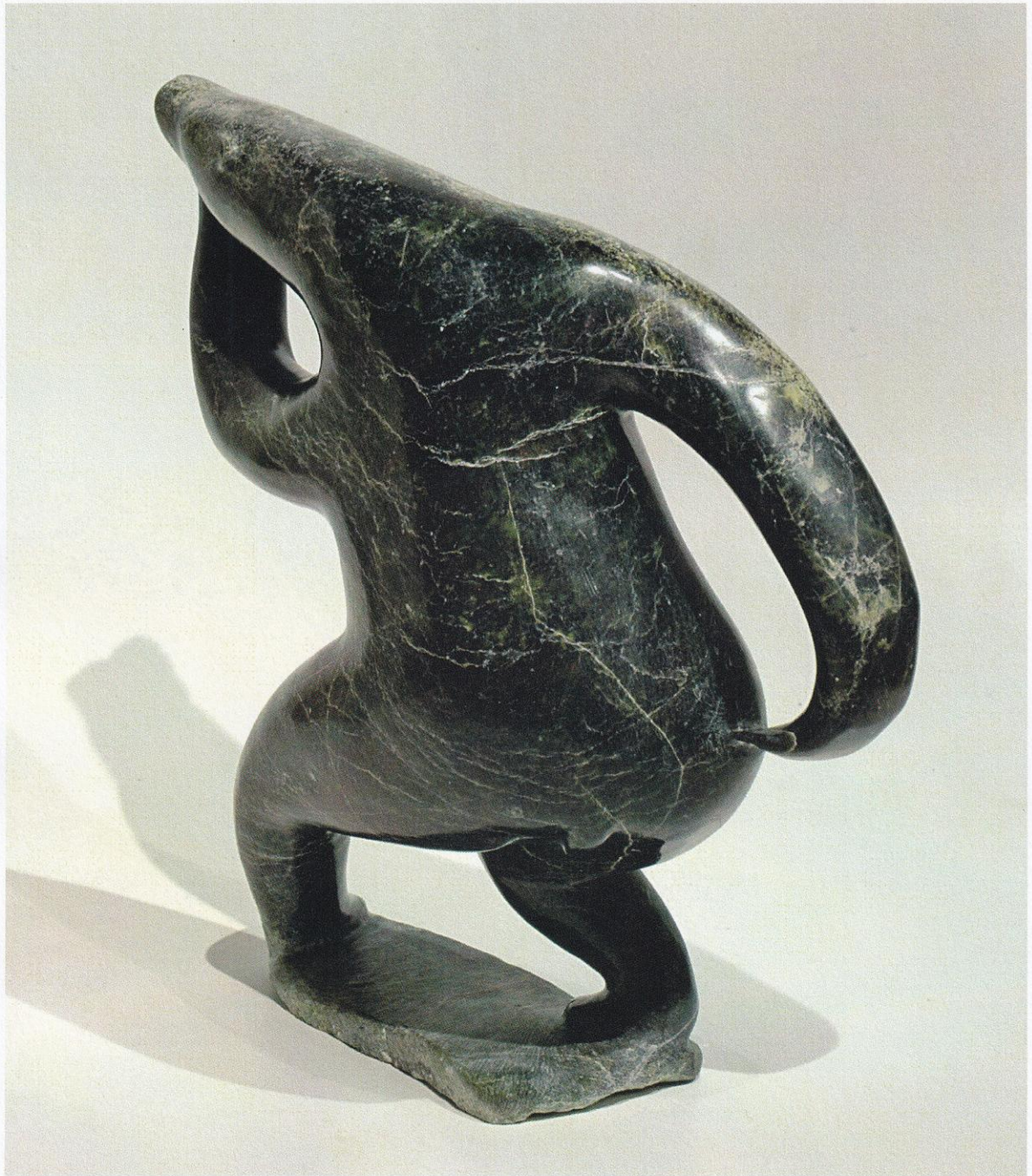
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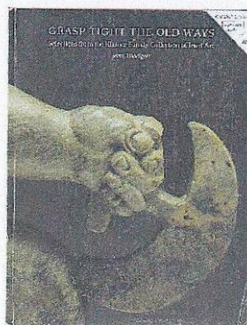


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QAVAROAK TUNNILLIE



Like many contemporary Inuit sculptures, this work (No. 101) was not given a title by the artist. Rather, carvings are subsequently assigned a title – often descriptive in nature – by the dealer, collector, catalogueur, or curator. The title *Dancing Figure Holding His Hair* given to this particular sculpture does describe to a certain extent what is taking place, but there are still puzzling aspects to the representation. Certainly the artist conveys a sense of movement characteristic of a dancing figure, yet it is not clear why the figure is holding his hair, or if in fact the figure is male. Aside from the masculine bulk and the musculature on chest and thighs, the figure is asexual. Perhaps it is a man wearing pants, yet there is no indication of any kind of clothing.

Here, as in his other work, Qavaroak is obviously more interested in form and shape than in narration or realism. Storytelling, proportion, anatomy, clothing, and other details are subordinated to the artist's overall sculptural concerns such as positive/negative space, movement, line, and composition. Qavaroak's depictions of animals, humans, and spirits – usually singly or at most with two to three figures – are often rounded and flowing with an emphasis on curves and lines, particularly the outline of the subjects. Especially in those works comprised of two to three figures, the sculptures can be quite complex, with intertwining and interweaving individual elements. But even the single figures are characterized by curving, rounded, and sensuous lines. In sculptures such as No. 101 and his *Spirit* in the Masterworks exhibition (Canadian Eskimo Arts Council, *Sculpture/Inuit*, No. 335), there is a continuous flow to the line traced around the outside of the figure, around extremities, along backs, and under bodies. Qavaroak tends to work on a heroic grand scale – either the sculptures are physically large or, if not, they are often imbued with a sense of massiveness, weight, and importance – yet the flowing lines and open spaces enliven and enhance the form.

In our sculpture, the heavy dancer is supported by his widely spaced sturdy legs, his feet firmly planted on the base. Nevertheless the sculpture is vigorously alive with suggested and potential movement. The knees bend and push out to the sides tensed with a forthcoming upward bounce, while having one leg bent more than the other throws the weight off the stable vertical axis to an active leaning angle. The bend of the legs is echoed and balanced by the arms curved up to the head. Having the figure hold his hair gets the arms up away from the body and into the action, adding to the interest of the outline and creating additional open spaces.

Qavaroak, or Kabubawakota as he has also been called, has been confused with another artist in Cape Dorset, Kabubuwa Katsiya, who makes graphics (drawing as well as printing) and some carvings. Our artist, Qavaroak the sculptor, is not responsible for any Cape Dorset prints either as draughtsman or printer.



101.
Qavaroak Tunnillie (1928-) m.
Dancing Figure Holding His Hair 1974
Green with black stone
42.5 x 37.3 x 19.5 cm
Signed with syllabics and dated
78/430

QAVAROAK TUNNILLIE 143

**QAVAROAK TUNNILLIE (KABUBUWAKOTAK; KABUBUWA; KABAWA;
KABUAKOTAK; KAVAGOAK; TUNNILEE; KABUWAKOTAK; TUNILLIE)**

Born: June 15, 1928 Male E7929

Died: April 1993

Resides: Cape Dorset

Sculpture

Qavaroak's mother was artist Ikayukta Tunnillie. His wife Tayaraq and his children Iyola, Komajuk, Ashevak, Martha, Peter and Letia are also Cape Dorset artists.

(Note: Photo #498 in Swinton, 1972 is now attributed to Qavaroak Tunnillie in Swinton, 1992)

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

1951

Eskimo Art

National Gallery of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
(illustrated brochure)

May 1953

Eskimo Carvings: Coronation Exhibition

Gimpel Fils
London, England
(illustrated catalogue)

1955

Eskimo Sculpture

arranged by the Department of Northern Affairs and National
Resources, and the National Gallery of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
(illustrated catalogue)

January - February 1967

Cape Dorset - A Decade of Eskimo Prints & Recent Sculpture

National Gallery of Canada, in cooperation with the Canadian
Eskimo Art Committee
Ottawa, Ontario
(tour)
(illustrated catalogue)

August - September 1968

**Eskimo Sculpture, Eskimo Prints and Paintings of Norval
Morrisseau**

Art Association of Newport
Newport, Rhode Island, U.S.A.
(illustrated catalogue)

November - December 1968

Eskimo Carvings

Waddington
Montreal, Quebec
(illustrated catalogue)

May - June 1969	Eskimo Sculpture '69 Robertson Galleries Ottawa, Ontario (illustrated catalogue)
1970	Mythology in Stone Canadian Guild of Crafts Quebec Montreal, Quebec
November - December 1970	Whalebone and Stone Eskimo Carvings Waddington Galleries Montreal, Quebec (illustrated catalogue)
1971 - 1973	Sculpture/Inuit: Masterworks of the Canadian Arctic Canadian Eskimo Arts Council Ottawa, Ontario (tour) (illustrated catalogue)
June 1973	Eskimo Sculpture Pucker/Safrai Gallery Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A. (illustrated catalogue)
1974	Cape Dorset Sculpture Canadian Guild of Crafts Quebec Montreal, Quebec
February 1975	Eskimo Sculpture Aberbach Fine Art New York, New York, U.S.A. (illustrated brochure)
September 1976	The Bear, the Owl, the Walrus The Arctic Circle Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.
October - November 1978	Eskimo Art Embankment Gallery London, England (illustrated catalogue)
March - April 1979	Die Kunst aus der Arktis Inuit Galerie, Mannheim held at Humanities and Social Sciences Research Institute, University of Siegen at Villa Waldrich Siegen, Germany (illustrated catalogue)
March - April 1979	Die Kunst aus der Arktis Inuit Galerie, Mannheim held at the Rathaus Foyer Mainz, Germany (illustrated catalogue)

October 1979	Sculpture of the Inuit: Masterwork Exhibitors of the Canadian Arctic Inuit Gallery of Vancouver Vancouver, British Columbia (illustrated catalogue)
November - December 1979	In Celebration Canadian Guild of Crafts Quebec Montreal, Quebec
1980 - 1981	In the Gallery: Winter 1980-1981 Theo Waddington New York, New York, U.S.A. (illustrated brochure)
January - March 1980	Cape Dorset Winnipeg Art Gallery Winnipeg, Manitoba (illustrated catalogue)
February - March 1980	Collectors' Choice - An Exhibition of Important Inuit Sculpture Waddington Galleries Toronto, Ontario
1981	Cape Dorset Sculptors and Their Sculpture The Inuit Art Collection Mr. and Mrs. James F. Bacon Manchester, Connecticut, U.S.A. (illustrated catalogue)
April - May 1981	Festival of Birds The Arctic Circle Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.
October - December 1982	Collector's Choice: 1965-1980 Inuit Gallery of Vancouver Vancouver, British Columbia (illustrated catalogue)
1983	An Enduring Tradition II: Inuit Carving from the Northwest Territories Inuit Gallery of Vancouver Vancouver, British Columbia (illustrated catalogue)
May 1983 - April 1985	Grasp Tight the Old Ways: Selections from the Klammer Family Collection of Inuit Art Art Gallery of Ontario Toronto, Ontario (tour) (illustrated catalogue)

February - March 1984	Canadian Inuit Art Sponsored by Canadian Arctic Producers at City Hall Nuuk/Godthab, Greenland
February - March 1984	Eskimo: Alltag und Kunst in der Arktis Inuit Galerie, Mannheim held at Museum Alexander Koenig Bonn, Germany
October 1984	Images of the Far North Studio Art Gallery, State University of New York Binghamton, New York, U.S.A.
November - December 1984	Die Kunst aus der Arktis Inuit Galerie, Mannheim held at Humanities and Social Sciences Research Institute, University of Siegen at Villa Waldrich Siegen, Germany (illustrated catalogue)
November - December 1984	Contemporary Art: Cape Dorset Canadian Guild of Crafts Quebec Montreal, Quebec
December 1984 - February 1985	The Last and First Eskimos Museum of Science and History Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A.
1985 - 1986	Selected Canadian Sculpture Webster Galleries Calgary, Alberta (illustrated brochure)
November - December 1985	Cape Dorset Sculpture by Ipellee Osuitok, Tutuiya Ikkidluak, Quavaroak Tunnillie, Ashevak Tunnillie, Peter Tunnillie Canadian Guild of Crafts Quebec Montreal, Quebec
December 1985	Masterwork Sculpture 1985 Inuit Gallery of Vancouver Vancouver, British Columbia (illustrated catalogue)
July - August 1986	L'art et la Matiere: Peintures au sable de Claude Durand - Sculptures d'Art Esquimaux Conseil Municipal Le Comite d'Animation Culturelle Deauville-Touques, France
July 1986 - February 1988	Selections from the John and Mary Robertson Collection of Inuit Art Agnes Etherington Art Centre Queen's University Kingston, Ontario (tour) (illustrated catalogue)

July 1986	Baffin Island Sculpture Inuit Gallery of Vancouver Vancouver, British Columbia (illustrated catalogue)
January 1987	Contemporary Sculpture from the Arctic Arctic Artistry Hartsdale, New York, U.S.A.
October 1987	[L'art inuit] Presented by l'Iglou Art Esquimau, Douai at Chambre de Commerce de Chateauroux, France
December 1987 - February 1988	Inuk, Inuit: Art et tradition chez les esquimaux d'hier et d'aujourd'hui presented by L'Iglou Art Esquimau, Douai, at Musee des Beaux- arts d'Arras Arras, France (illustrated catalogue)
April 1988	[L'art inuit] Presented by l'Iglou Art Esquimau, Douai at Palais de L'Europe, Le Touquet, France
June - September 1988	The World Around Me University of Lethbridge Art Gallery Lethbridge, Alberta
July 1988	[L'art inuit] Presented by l'Iglou Art Esquimau, Douai at Chapelle de la Visitation, Thonon, France
October 1988	Tundra & Ice: Stone Images of Animals and Man presented by Orca Aart at the Adventurers' Club Chicago, Illinois
October 1988	Art/Facts McMaster Art Gallery Hamilton, Ontario
December 1988	[L'art inuit] Presented by l'Iglou Art Esquimau, Douai at Galerie des Tanneurs, Mulhouse, France
January - February 1989	Images of the Far North Arctic Artistry (held at the Erie County Fairgrounds) Hartsdale, New York, U.S.A.
February - March 1989	[L'art inuit] Presented by l'Iglou Art Esquimau, Douai at St. Marcellin, France

March - April 1989	[L'art inuit] Presented by l'Iglou Art Esquimau, Douai at Galerie Autre Regard, Paris, France
June 1989	Masters of the Arctic: An Exhibition of Contemporary Inuit Masterworks Presented by the Amway Corporation at the United Nations General Assembly New York, New York, U.S.A. (tour) (illustrated catalogue)
June - July 1989	Art Inuit Presented by l'Iglou Art Esquimau, Douai at Galerie Sanguine, La Rochelle, France
January - September 1990	Arctic Mirror Canadian Museum of Civilization Hull, Quebec
March 1990	Art Inuit, l'Art des Esquimaux du Canada Presented by l'Iglou Art Esquimau, Douai at Maison Falleur, Cambrai, France
February - April 1991	Art Inuit Presented by l'Iglou Art Esquimau, Douai at Galerie Humbert Nantes, France
February - March 1991	Cape Dorset Sculpture McMaster Art Gallery Hamilton, Ontario
April - June 1991	Art Inuit Presented by l'Iglou Art Esquimau, Douai at Galerie La Tour des Cardinaux L'Isle sur la Sorgue, France
May 1991	Inuit Music in Art: Singing and Dancing and Playing Feheley Fine Arts Toronto, Ontario
June - July 1991	Art Inuit Presented by l'Iglou Art Esquimau, Douai at Galerie Ombre et Lumiere Ensisheim, France
August - September 1991	Cape Dorset Stone Sculpture: Masters & the Next Generation Inuit Gallery of Vancouver Vancouver, British Columbia (illustrated catalogue)

August - September 1991

Art Inuit

Presented by l'Iglou Art Esquimau, Douai at Galerie Akenaton
Troyes, France

November - December 1991

Art Inuit: Autour de la Collection de Cape Dorset 1991

Presented by l'Iglou Art Esquimau, Douai at Le Colombier
Ville D'Avray, France

November 1991 - March 1992

Moving Around the Form: Inuit Sculpture and Prints

Agnes Etherington Art Centre Queen's University
Kingston, Ontario

February - April 1992

Art Inuit

Presented by l'Iglou Art Esquimau, Douai at Galerie Montador
Dieppe, France

September - November 1993

The Bear: Sculpture

Albers Gallery
San Francisco, California, U.S.A.

July 1994

Arctic Spirit 35 Years of Canadian Inuit Art

Frye Art Museum
Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.

September - October 1994

Kunst van de Inuit Eskimo's

Gemeentelijk Kunstcentrum Huis Hellemans
Edegem, Belgium
(illustrated brochure)

January - February 1995

The Collector's Eye Inuit Art from Private Collections

Albers Gallery
San Francisco, California, USA
(illustrated brochure)

April - June 1995

The Birds of Cape Dorset: A collection of sculpture by 32 Cape Dorset Carvers

Albers Gallery
San Francisco, California, U.S.A.
(illustrated brochure)

September 1995

Sedna: Spirit of the Sea

Feheley Fine Arts
Toronto, Ontario

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

October 1969

Kabubuwakota
Waddington Gallery
Montreal, Quebec
(illustrated brochure)

March 1973

Sculpture by Kububuwakota
Waddington Gallery
Montreal, Quebec

November 1979

Kabubuwa Tunillie (Kabubuwakota): Sculpture
Theo Waddington
Montreal, Quebec

March - April 1980

Quavoroa Tunnillie (Kabubawakota): An Exhibition of Recent Soapstone Sculpture
Waddington Galleries
Toronto, Ontario

October - November 1981

Tunillie Kabubawakota
Inuit Galerie
Mannheim, Germany
(illustrated catalogue)

October 1990

Kabubuwa Tunnillie
Feheley Fine Arts
Toronto, Ontario

March - April 1992

Kabubuwa Tunnillie (video catalogue)
Inuit Gallery of Vancouver Ltd.
Vancouver, British Columbia

April 1994

Kabubawakota Tunillie aus Cape Dorset
Inuit Galerie
Mannheim, Germany

COLLECTIONS

Agnes Etherington Art Centre, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario
Amway Environmental Foundation Collection, Ada, Michigan, U.S.A.
Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Ontario
Canada Council Art Bank, Ottawa, Ontario
Canadian Museum of Civilization, Hull, Quebec
Dennos Museum Center, Northwestern Michigan College, Traverse City, Michigan, U.S.A.
Eskimo Museum, Churchill, Manitoba
GE Canada Inuit Art Collection, Mississauga, Ontario
McMaster University Art Gallery, Hamilton, Ontario
Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Musée des beaux-arts de Montréal, Montréal, Québec
Museum of Anthropology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia
National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario
Sarick Collection, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Ontario
Sunnybrook Medical Centre, Toronto, Ontario
Toronto-Dominion Bank Collection, Toronto, Ontario
University of Lethbridge Art Gallery, Lethbridge, Alberta

HONOURS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND EVENTS

1968 A photograph of a sculpture of Qavaroak's, "Mother & Child", appeared on the cover of Canadian Labour, vol.13, no.12, December 1968.

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ARTS OF THE ESKIMO: PRINTS : /Ed. by Ernst Roch. Texts by Patrick Furneaux and Leo Rosshandler. Montréal: Signum Press in association with Oxford University Press, Toronto. 1974.
PORTRAIT: KABUBAWAKOTA TUNILLIE CANADA Journal, Juli/August 1990.
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Fry, Jacqueline. CONTEMPORARY ARTS IN NON-WESTERN SOCIETIES. artscanada, vol. 27, no. 6, December-January, 1971. pp.96-101
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