

# North

by

Martin Berkovitz

On a visit to the Royal Ontario Museum during the 70's, I discovered a tiny mask belonging to the ancient Thule culture from Canada's far north. This miniscule object going back a thousand years possessed tremendous power and mystery, and was for me a potent expression of that culture. By the late 70's, I was working on a series of pictures inspired by this object. In fact, I used the mask in a painting called "Great Spirit of the Arctic".

Thirty years later I had an unusual dream. I was standing on a quay overlooking an ice-clogged channel between two factory buildings that had been part of the turn of the century whaling industry. As the channel flowed into the open sea, I saw a sailing boat with a Shaman at the rudder. The whole scene was strange and wonderful. Back in the 70's, while painting the initial "Northern" works, an enigmatic title had come to me, "Above or Near Pangnirtung." At that time I could never come up with a painting that was right for this title. Now with the dream, it was clear I finally had the right image. When I again took up the Northern theme, it was this picture that re-opened the vast dazzling mystery of the Arctic. What was begun three decades ago resulted in a new body of work, I simply called, "North."



“Above or Near Pangnirtung”  
Oil on Linen, 46 in. x 90 in. - 2006



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“Freeze Up”  
Oil on Linen, 46 in. x 90 in. - 2007



“Self Portrait with Map”  
Oil on Linen, 46 in. x 90 in. - 2007



“The Polar Place”  
Oil on Linen, 102 in. x 198 in. - 2007



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“In The Shadows”  
Oil on Linen, 120 in. x 120 in. - 2008



“Great Spirit”  
Oil on Linen, 102 in. x 198 in. - 2008



"Arctic Gold"  
Oil on Linen, 30 in. x 40 in. - 2009





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“Spirit Stone”  
Oil on Linen, 30 in. x 40 in. - 2009



"Voice of the Great Spirit"  
Oil on Linen, 30 in. x 40 in. - 2009



“Isle of Warmth”  
Oil on linen, 30 in. x 40 in. - 2009



“Arakamchechen”  
Oil on Linen, 30 in. x 40 in. - 2009



“Daughters of the North”  
Oil on Linen, 30 in. x 40 in. - 2009



"Iron From The Stars"

Ink and Brush on Paper, 22 in. x 30 in. - 2008



"Winter Approaching"

Ink and Brush on Paper with Gold Gouache 22 in. x 30 in - 2009



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“Shaman Tree, Night”

Ink and Brush on Paper with Gold Gouache, 22 in. x 30 in. - 2009





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“Rider of the Tundra”

Ink and Brush with Gold and White Gouache, 22 in. x 30 in. - 2009



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"Golden Nerrivik"

Ink and Brush with Gold and White Gouache, 22 in. x 30 in. - 2009



“Kamchatka”

Ink and Brush on Paper with Gold Gouache, 22 in. x 30 in. - 2009



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“Snowy Owl and Meteorite”

Ink and Brush on Paper, 30 in. x 40 in. - 2009



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“Nerrivik, Nighttime”

Ink and Brush on Paper with Gold Gouache, 30 in. x 40 in. - 2009



"Spirit Play"

Ink and Brush on Paper with Gold Gouache, 30 in. x 40 in. - 2009



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“Shamanic Night”

Ink and Brush with Gold Gouache, 30 in. x 40 in. - 2009



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“The Chukchi Sea”

Ink and Brush on Paper, 30 in. x 40 in. - 2009





“Night Vision”

Ink and Brush on Paper with Gold Gouache, 30 in. x 40 in. - 2009



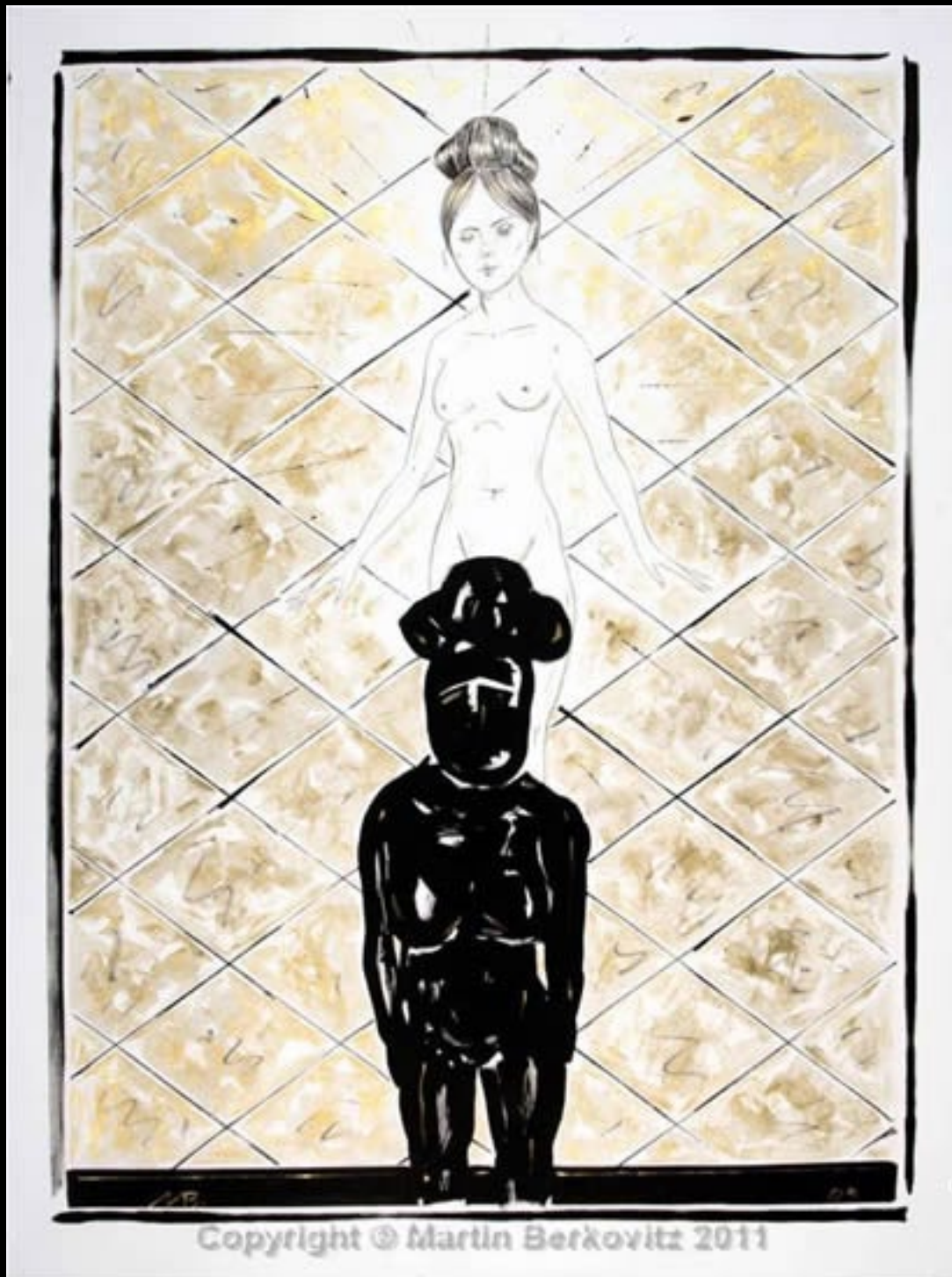
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“Nerrivik’s Cave”

Ink and Brush on Paper, 30 in. x 40 in. - 2009



“Mother of the Polar Night 5”  
Ink and Brush with Gold Gouache, 30 in. x 40 in. - 2009



“Emergence”

Ink and Brush with Gold Gouache, 30 in. x 40 in. - 2009

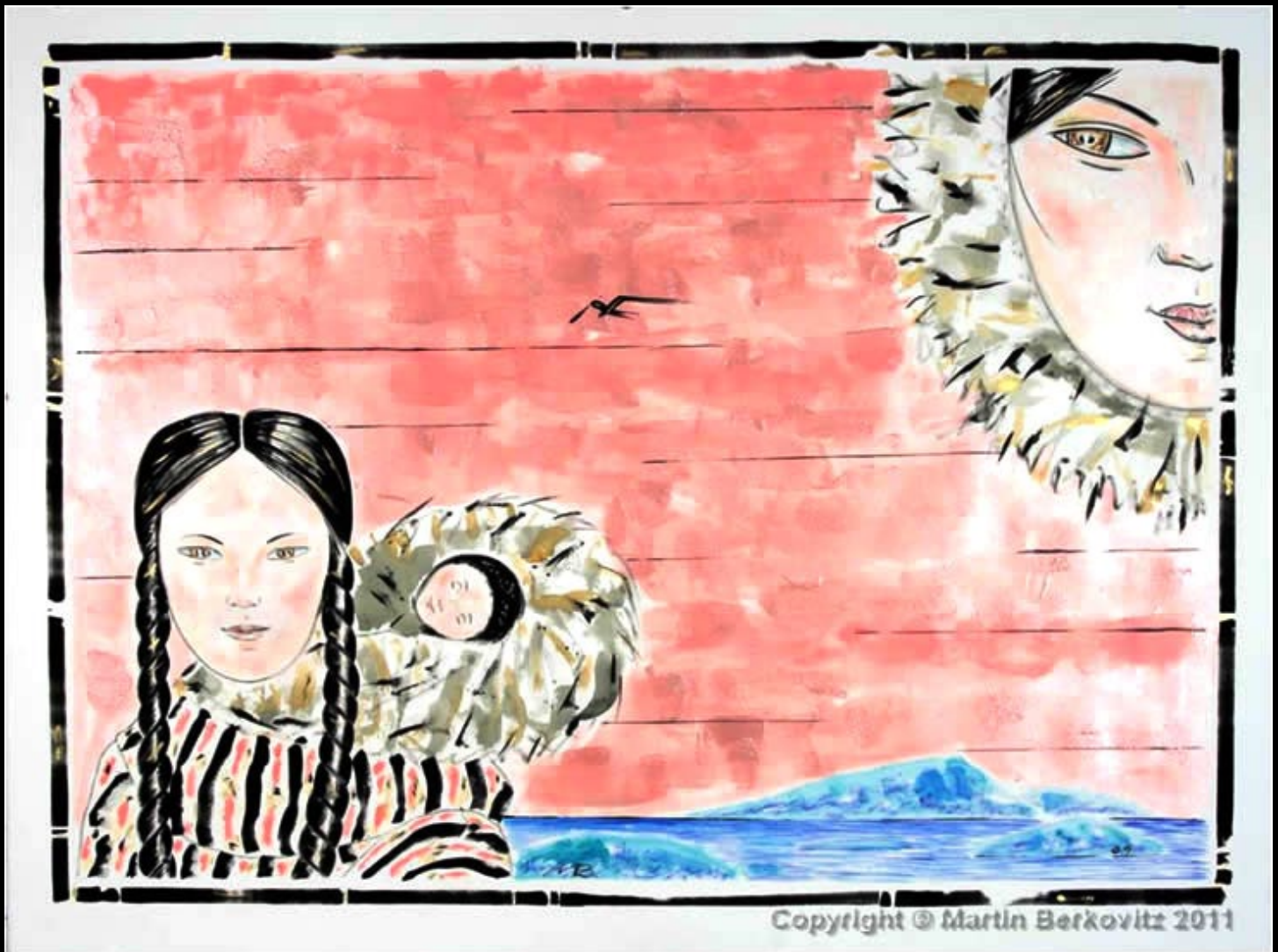


“Siberian Shaman Drummer”  
Ink and Brush with Gold Gouache, 30 in. x 40 in. - 2009



“Nerrivik at Night”

Ink and Brush with Gold Gouache, 30 in. x 40 in. - 2009



"Children of the North"

Ink and Brush with Watercolor, gouache and acrylic, 30 in. x 40 in. - 2009



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“NerrivikLand”

Ink and Brush with Gouache and Gold Gouache 30 in. x 40 in. - 2009





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“Between Worlds”

Ink and Brush with Watercolor and Gouache, 30 in. x 40 in. - 2009



“Ocean of the Great Spirit”

Ink and Brush with Gouache and Gold Gouache, 30 in. x 40 in. - 2009

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