

# CHRISTINA PARKER

GALLERY

## MARY ANN PENASHUE NINAN NITASSINAN (OUR LAND)

Mary Ann Penashue's paintings are a window into Innu life. Her vibrant canvases map the diversity and uniqueness she observes among the approximately 1,950 citizens in her community, Sheshatshiu Innu Nation, a reserve 40 kilometres north of Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Labrador.

Penashue's suite of new works was created for the 2023 Bonavista Biennale. They are an important contribution, enabling viewers to acknowledge nearby places which they may not have encountered or understand.



**Ceremonial Walk Out**, Acrylic on canvas, 36 x 36", 2023

Penashue's work calls attention to the resonance between the people and the land, and the land to the people. Each portrait elevates Innu presence, survival and resilience, more than often absent from mainstream society. They are an invitation to celebrate the important history and relations throughout Ninan Nitassinan (our land).



**Footprints**, Acrylic on canvas, 48 x 24", 2023



**Innu Hunter**, Acrylic on canvas, 36 × 24", 2023



**Mother With Child**, Acrylic on canvas, 36 × 24", 2023

**MARY ANN PENASHUE** is an Innu painter born on Birch Island near Goose Bay, Labrador, and residing in Sheshatshiu, Labrador.

Raised by her grandparents in a small village called Mud Lake, Penashue learned from them Innu culture and traditions. Having been an active art maker for over twenty-five years, she has had significant recognition for her figurative paintings of "Tshenut" (Elders) in her community.

Mary Ann Penashue's work has been exhibited throughout Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec and Ontario, including the 2023 Bonavista Biennale. Her work is found in the collections of The Rooms Provincial Art Gallery, the Provincial Art Bank, BMO St. John's, IDLP (Innu Development Limited Partnership), and the Band Council of Sheshatshiu, as well as many private collections.



**Moment**, Acrylic on canvas, 16 × 12", 2023