

In the mid twentieth century, artists in Indigenous and colonized communities around the globe began to create innovative artistic expressions arising from their varied encounters with cosmopolitan carriers of artistic modernism. In the Canadian Arctic, it was James Houston (1921-2005) — the artist, Arctic administrator, and writer — who introduced Inuit artists to ideas of aesthetic modernism, setting the stage for the emergence of “contemporary Inuit art”. Although much of Houston’s life after 1949 is well-known, little is known of his artistic development prior to his first visit to the Arctic in 1948. Sharing new research findings, this talk looks at Houston’s globetrotting early years, locating it in the context of a broader pattern of modernist mediation with that was occurring around the Post-War world.



## BETWEEN CHACMOOL AND GERARD SEKOTO

James Houston’s Inuit Modernism in the 1940s

### THE DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY’S ANNUAL WAYNE CRAVEN LECTURE

Delivered by Norman Vorano, *Associate Professor  
and Queen’s National Scholar, Queen’s University*

September 26, 5:30 p.m. | 101 Recitation Hall

➤ Immediately following the lecture, join us for ➤

### “THE WORLD IS FOLLOWING ITS PEOPLE”

Indigenous Art and Arctic Ecology

### EXHIBITION RECEPTION

September 26, 6:30 p.m. | Old College Gallery