My Name is Arnaktauyok: The Life and Art of Germaine Arnaktauyok

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Germaine Arnaktauyok’s life is as interesting as her art. She grew up in a traditional Inuk family camp in Maniituq, Canada on the Melville Peninsula. Her father hunted for food and skins to trade. Her mother cooked, sewed, and cared for her twelve children. When she was nine years old, Germaine was sent to a residential school in Chesterfield Inlet run by nuns and priests, where she learned English and art. She was a natural at painting and sold her first piece at age eleven. That’s where it all began. She attended art schools and learned different techniques from various jobs. Germaine is known worldwide for her Inuit art, featuring family life, legends, and traditions.

This beautiful biography illustrated by Germaine’s artwork provides insights and thoughts into her artistic process. Her childhood, job experiences, and family life all influenced her work. She discusses technique and color of her artwork but also the background and inspiration to much of the family life, legends, and traditions she brings to life. The book has a clean, white, studio-like layout. Captions include comments from her mentors and colleagues. The back includes an index of her artwork with a thumbnail image, title, year, size, and medium. Germaine Arnaktauyok artfully shares insights into Inuit life through her personal experiences and talent.

*Contains mild sexual content (she discusses fertility and incest in a legend).