The Guilford College Art Gallery presents “Inuit Art: Narratives from a Culture in Transition,” showcasing more than 100 contemporary works of Inuit art from the collection of a couple whose four children attended Guilford College.

On display through Dec. 15, 2013, the sculptures, textiles, prints, drawings and paintings reflect Inuit artists’ personal experiences of living on the land, and their relationships with animals and animal spirits. The show includes photographs of the artists and region, taken by the collectors over the past decade on trips to Nunavut, the largest and northernmost territory in Canada. The main gallery features art from the hamlet of Baker Lake, including works by Jessie Oonark, a leading figure in the first generation of Modern Inuit art; works by six of her eight children who all became artists; and a textile embroidery by Oonark’s granddaughter. Four large display cases lining the entrance hall showcase sculptures in media ranging from stone to caribou antler to whalebone. Subjects explored include shamanism, transformation, hunting, fishing, myths and legends, childbirth, marriage, along with drum dancing and throat singing.

Curated by Founding Director & Curator Theresa Hammond, and assisted by students in a 2013 capstone Sociology/Anthropology course entitled, “Cultures on Display: Museums Heritage & Tourism,” the exhibition offers opportunities to consider the tremendous changes the Inuit have experienced in modern times due to colonization, expanding industry and climate change.

Admission to the exhibition is free, and is open to the public. Guided tours are available by calling 336-316-2438. The College is closed for the Thanksgiving holiday November 28-December 1.