

This past winter, **Heather Igloliorte** met with and moderated a conversation with fellow curators **Heather Campbell** and **Jocelyn Piirainen**. The following exchange highlights the diverse roles Inuit occupy as curators today, as well as the current state of the field.

# IN CONVERSATION















**HI:** Oh yeah! Geronimo was cataloguing and archiving work for the Igloodik Isuma Video Archive that [the gallery] acquired, doing the time coding and so on. They have this massive [collection], including many of their VHS tapes and recordings. It was a big job, and I think it was funded through Mobilizing Inuit Cultural Heritage.<sup>1</sup> And I think, Jocelyn, that you are only the second Inuk to ever have a curatorial residency, because, I think, I was the first with *Decolonize Me* at the Ottawa Art Gallery in 2011.

**JP:** It's really surprising. I don't know why that is.

**HI:** I think there are different factors. I mean Heather was a curator [with the Inuit Art Centre]. July Papatsie was probably the first, and then Barry [Pottle] was also a curator there briefly.

**HC:** Actually, at the centre, just the structure of it—they had one curator for the First Nations side of the Indian and Inuit Art Centres, but they didn't have an official curator for the Inuit side. So I was technically

a curatorial assistant, even though I often did the work of a curator. That's how I ended up going to that Aboriginal Curatorial Collective meeting.<sup>2</sup>

**HI:** What year was that? When were you there?

**HC:** I was there from 1999 to 2005.

**HI:** I think that's how we first met, right? I was a grad student at Carleton and I came to do research, and you helped me find some stuff in the archive. Does that sound familiar?











