IsumaTV-Zacharias Kunuk

IsumaTV (thoughtful media) uses Inuit video art ? community-based Inuit-language digital filmmaking ? to record our cultural history.

Inuit culture is an Oral Tradition passed down through generations for four millenia by storytelling the knowledge in our heads; we have no libraries. In the past 50 years residential schools, town life and foreign TV disrupted our storytelling tradition as our last elders passed away. Inuit media art recreates oral history and knowledge for present and future generations, keeping Inuit storytelling alive in the 21st century. I was born in a sod house in 1957, never saw a white person until age 9. First I made whalebone carvings, then bought my first video camera in 1981; started Igloolik Isuma Productions with three partners in 1991; made our first feature Atanarjuat The Fast Runner in 2001. In 2008 we launched IsumaTV, the first website just for Inuit and Aboriginal films. In 2012 we built Digital Indigenous Democracy, IsumaTVâ€™s network of local servers to inform and consult Inuit on mining in communities where internet bandwidth is too slow and costly for Youtube or other media websites to work. Today IsumaTV carries 1300 Inuit films and videos, of a total 6000 films and videos in 80 languages worldwide, and brings the social, political and collective power of community-based media to remote communities on the wrong side of the Digital Divide. Next 5 years we hope to expand IsumaTV in Canada and around the world.
IsumaTV started in 2008 in Igloolik Hamlet, north Baffin Island, Canadian arctic; local server network expanded 2012-16 to Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Iqaluit, Clyde River, Arviat, Cambridge Bay, Taloyoak, Kugaaruk, Kugluktuk, Gjoa Haven, Old Masset and Skidegate (Haida Gâ€™wai). Located in physical communities (local servers, TV channels, local video production) and online in cyberspace, 6000 films and videos, in 80 indigenous languages, from 6 continents.

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Where:
CA / Canada / Baffin, Unorganized

Website:
www.visibleproject.org/blog/project/isumatv-igloolik-hamlet-north-baffin-island-canadian-arctic-archipelago/

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