Dolls, made as toys or for sale to westerners, document how beads were used in different communities across the north. Two dolls from West Greenland display all the elements of a woman’s best attire. They are dressed nearly identically except for their boots. The tall red boots were typically worn by older women, while younger women wore shorter white boots, with embroidered liners topped with lace. All women wore white boots, with embroidered liners tipped with lace and white tops. A contemporary doll depicting an Innu hunter is dressed in the style of the early decades of the twentieth century, including a distinctive hat. Beadwork on full-sized clothing would have been more elaborate than that worn by the doll.
Mukluks and Moccasins

Northern seamstresses, like other indigenous women across North America, often used beads to decorate the footwear they made for their family members. These

Beaded Collars

Beaded collars are one of the most dramatic parts of a West Greenland woman’s wardrobe. The collars are formed using a distinctive netting technique not commonly used elsewhere in the north. Although the designs are strong horizontally, the necklaces are constructed with vertical stitches. The overall design, then, must be envisioned before work is begun.

Beaded Sculptures

In Arviat, Nunavut, sculptor Eva Talooksi began adding glass beads to her stone carvings in the 1970s. In some early carvings she included cloth, but more often she used beads alone to represent the adornment on a woman’s parka. Later, other artists also adopted this decorative technique.

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