

E I I R

Joe Fafard – Clip 3

There's quite a story surrounding it, if you want to hear it. In 1978, the year I made the piece, the Commonwealth Games were held in Edmonton. The queen was visiting Canada to attend the opening of the Commonwealth Games. Before the event, there were, naturally, stories in all the papers about the queen's visit, and one of the stories I distinctly remember was that a special toilet was going to be built for the queen at Edmonton Stadium, and it would cost \$50,000. The queen might or might not use it, maybe once or twice, maybe to have a bit of a rest. It was going to cost so much money. At the time, I was looking for some money to build myself a studio. I didn't have it. I thought to myself: "They're going to spend \$50,000 so that the queen can have a poop (laughter), and I can't find \$20,000 for a studio to make works of art. Seems unfair." I decided to do a portrait of the queen and sell it to her so that I'd have the money to build myself a studio. (laughter).