



Raven Talk

Fall 2015

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New work by Tom Hunt on display now in the Gallery



These moon masks were carved by Tom Hunt especially for the story pole blessing (below), and debuted in one of the ceremonial dances. In this humorous rivalry, the audience was invited to choose which phase of the moon was best.

Any mask used in ceremony is highly valued. While this story added a touch of whimsy to the sacred ritual, it is always considered a great honor to wear a moon mask.

Artist Tom Hunt is a member of the Kwagiulth Nation. With family ties in Campbell River and Fort Rupert, his work reflects the history of both places. Because his families are active in the potlatch system, Tom has deep knowledge about the creation and preparation of masks used in ceremony.

Story pole blessing

In a ceremony on August 7, members of the Kwakwaka'wakw Nation came to McCracken Point on Henry Island to bless a story pole (right) carved by Kwagiulth artist Tom Hunt.

Wearing traditional robes, headdresses and masks, they told stories, dusted the ground with eagle down in blessing and danced to the accompaniment of songs and drums.

Carved from a single red cedar tree, the 9,000-pound story pole featuring the whale, salmon, raven, eagle, seal, sea lion and hummingbird, was commissioned through the Arctic Raven Gallery.

Native art commissions and consultations

The Arctic Raven Gallery offers consultation services to collectors and consultants. The depth of our collection of Northwest Coast art allows us to bring a selection of work to your location for consideration. We also work with acclaimed Native artists in commissioning specialized pieces and unique designs.



Photo by Kristina Gladstein