

Reg Davidson

Haida Eagle, date unknown

paint and deer hide on wood frame
7.5 cm x 61.0 cm

Vancouver Art Gallery Acquisition Fund
VAG 92.39



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Haida Eagle, date unknown

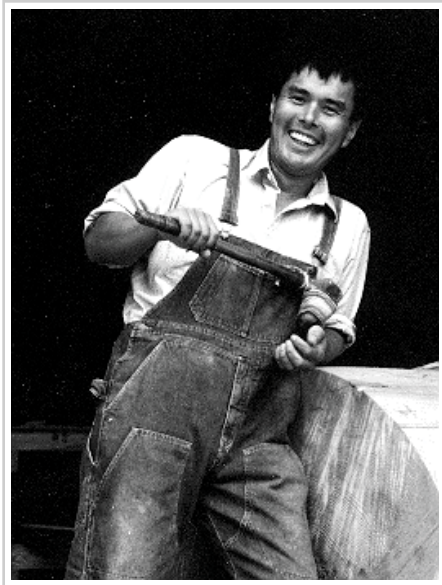


Image source:
www.douglasreynoldsgallery.com

Artist's Biography

Nationality: Canadian
First Nations Affiliation: Haida
Born: 1954-08-29, Masset, Queen Charlotte Islands, B.C.

Reg Davidson is an internationally acclaimed Haida artist who creates large and small cedar sculptures, silk-screen prints, gold and silver jewelry, weaving, carved masks and painted drums. He was born in 1954 in Masset, Haida Gwaii (Queen Charlotte Islands), British Columbia. Reg began his artistic training under the guidance of his father, Claude Davidson, chief of the village of Dadens, Haida Gwaii. Many members of the Davidson family are artists, including Reg's well-known brother, Robert Davidson. Reg is an accomplished dancer and singer with the Rainbow Creek Dancers, a Haida Dance group that Reg and Robert formed in 1980. Reg designed and created much of the dance regalia for the group including masks, drums, and kid leather dance capes. Reg recognizes the importance of song and dance to Haida culture. In 1977, he worked with Robert on the Charles Edenshaw Memorial Longhouse. In August 1980, Malaspina College on Vancouver Island commissioned Reg to create a 31-foot, 3 figure Eagle crest totem pole for presentation to the Tamagawa University of Japan. This led to a second commission for a pole raised in Old Massett. With regard to innovation, Reg thinks the masters have already pushed it to the max. Reg's style shows reverence for the masters and has changed only slightly over the years. "Simplicity is the hardest thing to achieve," he says.

Source: "Reg Davidson, Haida Artist." February 16, 2006.
<http://iweb.tntech.edu/cventura/reg.htm>

Artistic Context

Nationality: Canadian
First Nations Affiliation: Haida
Training: Studied under Claude Davidson
Peers: Robert Davidson; Joe David
Groups: Northwest Coast art; 20th Century; 21st Century
Provenance: purchased from the artist in 1992
Subject: Haida culture

Other Works in the Vancouver Art Gallery Collection

Reg Davidson
Frog, 1991
screenprint on paper
Gift of J. Ron and Jacqueline Longstaffe
VAG 2003.4.10

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Further Reading

Beyond Revival: Contemporary Northwest Coast Native Art. Vancouver: Charles H. Scott Gallery, 1989.

Loeb, Barbara. *Northwest Coast: Native American Art*. Missouri: Crafts Alliance Education Center and Gallery, 1989.

Masks: An Exhibition of Northwest Coast Native Masks. Vancouver: Inuit Gallery of Vancouver, 1989.

Steltzer, Ulli. *A Haida Potlatch*. Vancouver: Douglas & MacIntyre, 1984.

Macnair, Peter et. al. *The Legacy: Continuing Traditions of Canadian Northwest Coast Indian Art*. Victoria: British Columbia Provincial Museum, 1980.

Exhibition History

Exhibitions at the Vancouver Art Gallery

Art in British Columbia. January 1, 1994 - December 31, 1994.

75 Years of Collecting: First Nations: Myths and Realities. May 6, 2006 - August 27, 2006.

Selected Exhibitions Outside of the Vancouver Art Gallery.

Derek Simpkins Gallery of Tribal Art, Vancouver. *Transformation: A Unity of Spirits*. November 10, 1994 - November 30, 1994.

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Archival History

Note to File

Miscellaneous History

[transcription]

Note to file: Reg Davidson, *Eagle Drum*

This Eagle Drum was painted in February of 1992. The main figure is an eagle with a frog figure inside the eagle's nostril, a human face contained within the shoulder, and a smaller eagle contained within the wing. It is wood and deerskin and is a singing drum entitled to be carried by a singer/dancer.

W. [in black ink]

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