

Reflections on Northwest Coastal Art Forms

David Hall's photographs of reflections on the protected waters along the shoreline of Ross Lake planted the seed for this exhibit. These photographs capture a visual similarity between the surface reflections and various traditional line shapes created and used by many Pacific Northwest Coastal Tribes, including the formline of the Haida. Hall's meditation on these reflections led him to wonder whether such instances of these shapes were an inspiration to the tribes that first implemented them in their visual culture around 2,000 years ago.

We saw this as an opportunity to bring the work of Indigenous Artists of those areas into the gallery. Historically excluded from traditional galleries and museums they are long past due for more exposure and appreciation of their creativity and craftsmanship. These design forms are often used to represent a variety of different cultural themes, including stories, histories, and spiritual beliefs. We selected a variety of work from very traditional to some contemporary artists who are pushing the boundaries of their particular forms. We are honored to be able to do this with the generous loan of works by Stonington Gallery of Seattle.

This show includes work by:

1. David Hall (Non-Indigenous)
2. Tom Hunt (Kwakiutl/Kwakwaka'wakw)
3. Rande Cook (Kwakawa'wakw 'Namgis)
4. Dennis Allen (Skokomish (Twana))
5. Preston Singletary (Tlingit)
6. Taylor Wily Krise (Squaxin Island)
7. Susan Point (Musqueam)
8. Amber Spindel (Port Gamble S'Klallam)
9. Freda Diesing (Haida)
10. Qwalsius-Shaun Peterson (Puyallup/Tulalip)
11. Jim Schoppert (Tlingit)
12. Maynard Johnny Jr. (Penelakut/Kwakwaka'wakw)
13. Tom LaFortune (Tsawout First Nation)
14. Allie High (Tsimshian/Haida/Aleut)
15. Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas (Haida)
16. Joe (Wahalatsu?) Seymour Jr. (Squaxin Island/Pueblo of Acoma)