

Media Backgrounder and Fact Sheet

Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation
Government of British Columbia

CARVING A FUTURE – ABORIGINAL ART IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Carey Newman is a carver, an opera singer and a voice for his community, the Kwagiulth and Coast Salish First Nations of Vancouver Island. At just thirty-four, Carey has already created several momentous works of art including the Spirit Pole, the first pole to be carved with the help of over 11,000 British Columbians. Carey is characteristic of B.C.'s younger generation of carvers, learning from his elders and bringing new vision to this unique art form.

- Totem poles are only found on the Pacific Northwest. The various First Nations of British Columbia have carved their stories into wood for generations.
- 140 pieces of art from 90 Aboriginal artists from across Canada are installed throughout the 2010 Winter Games venues including a four-panel steel, cedar and glass installation designed by Coast Salish carver Carey Newman.
- Aboriginal artists are helping shape the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Vancouver Island Aboriginal artist Corrine Hunt (of Komoyue and Tlingit descent) helped design the 2010 Winter Games medals. Coast Salish artist Debra Sparrow designed the logo for the Team Canada 2010 hockey jersey.
- World-renowned Haida master goldsmith, carver, sculptor, and artist Bill Reid was instrumental in promoting the great art traditions of Aboriginal people in British Columbia. His sculpture *Raven and the First Men*, is on display at the University of British Columbia's Museum of Anthropology and is featured on the Canadian 20 dollar bill.
- To celebrate British Columbia's anniversary a 20-foot Spirit Pole, *Victory in Spirit, a Story in Wood*, traveled through over 40 communities. Over 11,000 people helped carve the pole, under the direction of Coast Salish and Kwagiulth carver Carey Newman.
- In September 2009, four new works of Aboriginal art were added to the permanent collection at the official residence of the Lieutenant Governor, the Queen's representative in B.C., to celebrate the contribution of Aboriginal people in British Columbia including a 14-foot healing pole carved by Coast Salish carver Luke Martson and a woven blanket by Coast Salish artist Debra Sparrow.
- Six Aboriginal artists were given B.C. Creative Achievement Awards for Aboriginal Art in October 2009. The recipients included: Kwakiutl carver Calvin Hunt, Kwakiutl Master Carver Richard Hunt, Carrier Nadleh Whut'en basket maker Noeleen McQuary, Chemanius carver John Marston, Haida weaver Isabel Rorick and Gitsan artist Earl Muldon who received a lifetime achievement award.

CONTACTS

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The First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council assists B.C. First Nations in their efforts to revitalize their languages, arts and cultures. Recently, the Council partnered with the provincial government to commission four First Nations artists to create new works of art for Government House, the official residence of the Lieutenant Governor. www.fphlcc.ca

Carey Newman

Carver

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Coast Salish and Kwagiulth carver Carey Newman designed the Spirit Pole. This 20-foot red cedar log was carved by almost 12,000 people in 2008 as it toured over 40 communities across B.C. The pole commemorates the history of First Nations in British Columbia. Mr. Newman also created an art piece for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. www.blueraven.ca

VISUAL RESOURCES

- Video: Aboriginal Art event at Government House celebrating four new works of art including a 14-foot healing pole.
<http://www.mediaroom.gov.bc.ca/ViewShockwave.aspx?eventId=456&objectId=677>
- Video: Premier Campbell honours Aboriginal Artists with B.C. Creative Achievement Awards for Aboriginal Art. http://www.multimedia.gov.bc.ca/EN/honouring_aboriginal_art/
- Photos: Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre Image Gallery. <http://www.slcc.ca/media/image-gallery>
- Photos: The New School: B.C. First Nations Art, CBC Photo Gallery.
<http://www.cbc.ca/photogallery/arts/2381/>
- Photos: Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation George Abbott's photo gallery, including pictures of the Spirit Pole and Olympic mascots and the Aboriginal Pavilion.
<http://www.gov.bc.ca/arr/shared/gallery/default.html>

WEB RESOURCES

- VANOC Aboriginal Art – A complete list of artists involved in the VANOC Aboriginal Art Program in Olympic Venues. <http://www.vancouver2010.com/en/sustainability-and-aboriginal-parti/sustainability-stories/-/63266/31658/5jy7jb/the-vancouver-2010-venues-abor.html>
- Four Host First Nations – For the first-time the Olympic Games have an Aboriginal merchandising line, managed by the Four Host First Nations. www.fourhostfirstnations.com

- Creative Achievement Awards in Aboriginal Art – Profile on the 2009 recipients.
<http://www.bcachievement.com/aboriginalart/2009/recipient.php>
- Top Aboriginal Artists – In-depth bios and photographs of work by top B.C. Aboriginal artists. <http://www.fphlcc.ca/arts/featured-artists>
- Bill Reid Foundation – Explore the life and work of this world-renowned Haida artist.
<http://www.billreidfoundation.org/index.htm>
- Totem Poles – Learn about this highly skilled cultural artistic tradition.
<http://www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/exhibits/timemach/galler07/frames/totems.htm>

MEDIA COVERAGE

- Olympic Venues to Showcase Aboriginal Art, The Epoch Times, July 27, 2009,
<http://www.theepochtimes.com/n2/content/view/20174/>
- Thirty-Five B.C. aboriginal artists are part of Vancouver 2010 venues art program, The Province, June 19, 2009,
<http://communities.canada.com/theprovince/blogs/lordoftherings/archive/2009/06/18/thirty-five-b-c-aboriginal-artists-are-part-of-vancouver-2010-venues-art-program.aspx>
- Team Canada 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Jersey, HockeyCanada.ca, August 17, 2009
http://www.hockeycanada.ca/index.php/ci_id/65441/la_id/1.htm
- BC First Nations Spirit Pole, Synergy Magazine, November 7, 2008,
<http://www.synergymag.ca/bc-first-nations-spirit-pole/>
- Spirit Pole Raised in Duncan as Indigenous Games Start, Times Colonist, August 5, 2008
<http://www.canada.com/victoriatimescolonist/news/story.html?id=7e815958-bdea-4963-9d94-63059b1bbe20>
- New First Nations Art Graces Government House, Peninsula News Review, Sept. 25, 2009,
http://www.bclocalnews.com/vancouver_island_south/peninsulanewsreview/news/61531937.html
- Local First Nation artist carves special Healing Pole, Ladysmith Chronicle, Sept. 28, 2009,
http://www.bclocalnews.com/vancouver_island_central/ladysmithchronicle/news/62465922.html

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For assistance or more information:

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