

Dennis Allen

Thunderbird & Whale

Artist Statement

In the time long ago, it is said that animals shared many of the same qualities as people. Once a giant killer whale ate all the salmon in the ocean. Humans began to starve. Although the chiefs begged the whale to leave, it repeatedly mocked them. Finally, a congress of the greatest chiefs was convened. After time, a great wind blew in from the sea, lightening flashed, thunder roared. The chiefs felt the presence of a great, invisible spirit. "If I were to help you, what will you do for me?" the spirit asked. The chiefs promised, for all time, to reproduce the spirit's likeness as a sign of admiration and respect.

Thus, satisfied with their promises, Thunderbird appeared. He was an enormous manifestation with lightening flashes from his pointed talons and thunder rolling from his sun-blocking wings. Snatching up the killer whale, the raptor spirit dropped it onto the land where it solidified into a mountain. Native carvers have kept their word ever since.

Certificate of Authenticity

This print is a limited edition original serigraph. Working from Dennis's original drawings, I cut rubylith stencils for the three colors. The colors are then hand-printed onto archival paper. This print is one of an edition of 130 hand printed on Stonehenge Natural paper. In addition, printers proofs and artists proofs were printed. The paper size is 21.75 inches wide and 26.25 inches tall. The image size is 15.5 inches wide and 19 inches tall. The inks used were black, red, and turquoise.

This edition was printed by Paul Nicholson of Bellevue, WA in 2004 with the assistance of the artist, Dennis Allen.

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