

James Madison

Coast Salish/Tlingit Artist

James Madison was born in 1973 to a family of Coast Salish and Tlingit heritage. His father is Tlingit from Alaska and his mother has Snoqualmie and Snohomish heritage. From the age of eight Jim would carve alongside his grandfather, uncle and father at the kitchen table. They, along with the work of Haida master Bill Reid, have been his greatest artistic influences. Numerous other members of his family are also involved in art, including his mother, aunt and some cousins.

Jim studied art at the University of Washington and received his BFA in the year 2000. He focused on working with wood, paper and ink, metal and glass. He has made traditional wood carvings, prints and jewelry, but also has integrated traditional designs into a more contemporary look. In 2013, James was named Snohomish County "Artist of the Year."

One of Madison's major works is a 24-foot story pole in the hotel lobby at the Tulalip Resort and Casino. His artwork can also be seen at Tulalip's Hibulb Cultural Center, the Tulalip Health Clinic, Cabela's at the Tulalip Mall, Lighthouse Park in Mukilteo, Kayak Point Regional Park, Providence Hospital in Everett, and the Burke Museum on the University of Washington campus. Pieces by Madison can be found in downtown Everett; Stanwood; Marysville; Shoreline; Whistler, British Columbia; and New York City.

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