James Madison
"Gooch" Wolf Clan

Biography

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. An example of this is his bronze self-portrait. Although the original is carved of wood using traditional tools and techniques, the life-size mask incorporates multiple perspectives with one half of his face in a frontal view using Tlingit formline design and the other half a profile designed with Coast Salish elements. And yet the two sides together create one unified portrait. His style is still evolving toward something uniquely his, a blending of cultures and artistic traditions.

Artist Statement

Wolf is the principal crest of many prominent Northwest Coast families. Among the Tlingit, Wolf is an alternative to Eagle as the crest of one of the two main clans.

Certificate of Authenticity

This print is a limited edition original serigraph. Working from James' drawings and a large aluminum sculpture with a similar design, I cut rubylith stencils for the two colors, black and red. The colors are then hand-printed onto archival paper. This print is one of an edition of 180 hand printed on Arches Cover Cream. In addition, 3 printers proofs and 18 artists proofs were printed on Arches Cover Cream, for a total of 21 proofs. The paper size is 25.5 inches wide and 15.5 inches tall. The image size is 15 inches wide and 18 inches tall.

These edition was printed by Paul Nicholson of Bellevue, WA in 2006 with the assistance of the artist, James Madison.

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