

Brian Perry

S'Klallam Artist

Brian Perry was born in Eerie, Pennsylvania in February of 1967. He was raised on the Port Gamble S'Klallam Indian Reservation in Washington State. Brian lived with his grandparents most of the time. His grandfather took him everywhere. Along with hunting together, Brian's grandfather also taught him how to fish, dig clams, smoke salmon, cut firewood, and catch crab--basically everything a young boy needs to learn to become an appreciative and respectful man.

Brian grew up around carvers but did not really start carving himself until September of 1998, when his sister introduced him to David Boxley. He took three classes from David-box making, formline design, and masks. He had a lot of fun taking classes with David. Many people in the class were also in his dance group; often someone would say, "Let's sing the carving song" and someone would pick up a drum and they would all start singing.

Another person Brian learned a lot from was Ed Charles. Mr. Charles apprenticed with Duane Pasco. Ed is currently carving full time for the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe. Ed worked with Brian on Nuu-cha-nulth and Bella Coola styles. Currently Brian has been learning from Duane Pasco and David Franklin. David Franklin also apprenticed with Duane. Duane is married into Brian's family, so it has been convenient for him to tap into his knowledge and expertise. Brian is grateful for all that he has learned from his mentors.

Brian's art has been exhibited in galleries in Seattle, Portland, and Olympia. He has sold pieces to private collectors in New York, New Mexico, and Pennsylvania, as well as here in Washington.

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