

Shaun Peterson

Falling in Love

Artist's Statement

Eagles have long been known as a subject matter that artists of the Northwest Coast have frequently referenced for inspiration. Such is the case for this serigraph titled "Falling in Love". As can be seen in pictures, television documentaries, or for those fortunate enough, in person; eagles are known to lock their talons as part of a courtship display in the early spring. This graceful dance in the sky has been said to take place as early as mid to late February. Eagles mate for life and in most cases return to the very area from which their courtship in the air was initiated.

The inspiration for this design comes from the carving on an old wooden disc, known to the Southern Northwest Coast people as a spindle whorl. The image in the whorl represents two birds carved in low relief Coast Salish style. Spindle whorls were used to spin wool into yarn, which was then taken and woven into a blanket, worn by high ranking individuals and signifying their status. Highly decorated spindle whorls are not common today, and are a vital object of study for Southern Northwest Coast artists who are attempting to reestablish the traditional art forms of this region.

Vibrant red and contrasting black colors are used to express concepts that are rooted centuries back here on the coast, as well as to serve as a visual communication in which these two miraculous beings are engaged. The rush of blood throughout the body and feelings of fluster are emotions that one can identify with upon meeting ones partner in life. This representation of two Eagles seems no different than that, I believe, as love is a universal understanding.

Certificate of Authenticity

This print is a limited edition original serigraph. Working from Shaun's original artwork, Paul hand cut rubylith stencils for the other two colors of *Falling in Love*. The colors are black, and two dark red to light red blends. This print is one of an edition of 90 hand printed on Arches Cover White paper. In addition, 3 printers proofs and 10 artists proofs were printed on Arches Cover White, for a total of 13 proofs. The paper size of the Arches is 22 inches wide and 24 inches tall. The image size is 19 inches in diameter.

This edition was printed by Paul Nicholson of Bellevue, WA in 2005 with the assistance of the artist, Shaun Peterson.

©2005 Shaun Peterson and Paul Nicholson

THE LEGACY LTD

PUBLISHING AND PRINTING • CLASSIC NORTHWEST COAST INDIAN ART
11217 NE 15th St, Bellevue WA 98004
(425) 454-2363

VISIT OUR WEB SITE: <http://thelegacyltd.com> • E-MAIL: legacyltd@mac.com