

James T. Smith

Quinault/Quileute Artist

James was born in 1972 in Aberdeen, Washington and raised on the Quinault and Quileute Reservations, learning to speak both the languages. His Quileute nickname is Bá•yaK, which means “Raven.”

James has been encouraged in his artistry by many people, including Lillian and Sharon Pullen, teachers and basketmakers on the Quileute Reservation. Dave Forlines, a Quileute carver, taught James the skill of model canoe making when he was 11 years old. Working sometimes with his father, Lloyd Smith, Sr., and Guy Capoeman from the Quinault Reservation, James has made a number of full size canoes (14 feet long up to 32 feet long,) some of which are currently used by canoe teams participating in the Tribal Canoe Journeys each July.

James was also influenced by Quinault artist and carver Randy Capoeman. About eight years ago, James began to produce art for sale, making paddles, drums, masks, and model canoes among other things. Now he is expanding his mediums to include graphic design and serigraphic prints.

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