

Robert Hewson

Honoring the Salmon People

Artist's Statement

This design is a representation of the First Salmon ceremony. Among many of the Northwest tribes, the first salmon caught during their return upriver to spawn was the object of the ceremony. After thanking the salmon for providing food for the humans, the salmon was cooked and eaten. The uneaten scraps, the bones and skin, were returned to the water to be reborn and return in the following years.

Here I show a woman placing the bones in the water. The salmon returns to the salmon spirit house, which is painted with salmon designs. In the design on the salmon spirit house, human faces blow eggs into the belly of the salmon, a symbol of the continued survival of the salmon people. The smoke curling from the smokehole of the salmon house represents ravens as guardian spirits to the salmon, for it was *Raven* who first brought salmon to the Northwest Coast.

Certificate of Authenticity

This print is a limited edition original serigraph. Working from Robert's original drawings and from a related painting, I cut rubylith stencils for the three colors. The colors are then hand-printed onto archival paper. The paper size is 20 inches wide and 15 inches tall. The image size is 15 inches wide and 11 inches tall. The inks used were black, red, and blue-green.

This print is one of an edition of 175 made on Stonehenge Natural paper. 20 artists proofs and 4 printers proofs were also printed on the Stonehenge paper.

This edition was printed by Paul Nicholson of Bellevue, WA in 1996 with the assistance of the artist, Robert Hewson.

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