

Jeffrey Veregge

Coast Salish Artist

Artist Bio

I am a proud member of the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe in Washington State. In our Native tongue we are "Nux Sklai Yem" which means "the Strong People." I grew up on our reservation which is known locally as "Little Boston."

After completing art school at the Art Institute of Seattle, I studied under David Boxley, Master Tsimshian Carver for a short while, learning some of the basics of Salish form-line design. His artist mantra sticks with me every day: "You're only as good as your last work."

Artist Statement

I call my style Salish Expressionism. It is a hybrid of Coastal Salish art and my Native themes, mixed with various other artistic influences, mainly: Primitivism, Surrealism, and Expressionism. It is a feeling or gesture that has been given weight in order to contain a glimpse of: hope or pain . . . heartache or happiness . . . love or hate. It is communication of emotion.

Picasso once said:

"Every act of creation is first of all an act of destruction."

It is not my desire to tear down the walls of Traditional Native art. It is a rich heritage that I cannot ignore. I intend to use it as a foundation. To help create a form of art that speaks to all peoples, taking in the world, I am embracing the future, while honoring the past.

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