

Louie Gong

Nooksack Artist

Louie Gong is a self-taught artist who was raised by his grandparents in the Nooksack tribal community in northwest Washington. He got his start by painting cultural art on shoes, but realized that creating one-of-a-kind pieces did not provide a sustainable pathway to success, and began applying his artwork to accessibly-priced products. Louie's unique style merges traditional Coast Salish art with influences from his mixed heritage and urban environment to create work that resonates widely across communities and cultures.

Gong is the founder of the company *Eighth Generation* through which he merges traditional Coast Salish art and icons from popular culture to make statements about identity. He also launched the *Inspired Natives Project*, with the motto "Support Inspired Natives, not Native-inspired" in 2014 to model respectful ways of aligning with Native artists, aesthetics, and culture; while building the capacity of emerging Native arts entrepreneurs.

Gong has also exhibited at or had artistic partnerships with the Seattle Art Museum, The Wing Luke Museum, and the DePaul Art Museum.

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