James Madison
Lovebirds Print

Biography

James Madison was born in 1973 to a family of Coast Salish and Tlingit heritage. His father is Tlingit from Alaska and his mother has Snoqualmie and Snohomish heritage. From the age of eight Jim would carve alongside his grandfather, uncle and father at the kitchen table. They, along with the work of Haida master Bill Reid, have been his greatest artistic influences. Numerous other members of his family are also involved in art, including his mother, aunt and some cousins.

Jim studied art at the University of Washington and received his BFA in the year 2000. He focused on working with wood, paper and ink, metal and glass. He has made traditional wood carvings, prints and jewelry, but also has integrated traditional designs into a more contemporary look. An example of this is his bronze self-portrait. Although the original is carved of wood using traditional tools and techniques, the life-size mask incorporates multiple perspectives with one half of his face in a frontal view using Tlingit formline design and the other half a profile designed with Coast Salish elements. And yet the two sides together create one unified portrait. His style is still evolving toward something uniquely his, a blending of cultures and artistic traditions.

Lovebirds

The Haida and Tlingit people of the Northwest Coast have two main clans-the Eagle and the Raven. These societies are matrilineal-children follow their mother's clan. Traditionally, members of the same clan cannot marry, so marriages typically signify the joining of an eagle to a raven. Thus, Eagle and Raven, when linked together, are known as the Lovebirds.

Certificate of Authenticity

This print is a limited edition original serigraph. Working from James' drawings, I cut rubylith stencils for the three colors, black, blue and red. The colors are then hand-printed onto archival paper. This print is one of an edition of 300 hand printed on Arches Cover Cream. In addition, 3 printers proofs and 24 artists proofs were printed on Arches Cover Cream, for a total of 27 proofs. The paper size is 11 inches wide and 13 inches tall. The image size is 8 inches wide and 9.5 inches tall.

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