

Shaun Peterson

Puyallup/Tulalip Artist

Shaun was born in 1975 in Tacoma, Washington. He is a Coast Salish artist of the Puyallup and Tulalip tribes. Shaun works in diverse tribal styles, from west coast pieces to northern formline systems. His work encompasses both flat designs, such as print making, and sculptural works of art. He has worked with artists such as Greg Colfax and Steve Brown. The goal of his work is to be a positive influence on the growing interest in southern Northwest Coast art.

Shaun was influenced early on by his grandparents, Jane and Frank Wright Sr. It is through his grandfather's side of the family that Shaun is related to the late Henry Allen of the Skokomish people. Much of Shaun's influence came from Henry Allen as well. While these early influences led to Shaun's work as a Native artist, it was not until after he graduated high school that he became interested in pursuing art seriously. His early work was mainly in the northern formline design. It was after a year of working in this style that Shaun began to work in the southern, Salish style of his heritage. On the advice of Greg Colfax, Shaun began to study museum collections and became interested in the similarities between Coast Salish and old Makah styles from the Ozette site.

Today, Shaun uses these cross-cultural influences from many tribal styles to create his own unique style. The most visible influence could be identified as 'westcoast' in Shaun's rattles, masks and poles. It is through the process of combining various styles that Shaun hopes to become as positive an influence as artists like Susan Point and Stan Greene.

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