

Shaun Peterson

Journey to Inner Strength

Artist's Statement

When I had become more comfortable in my design abilities as an artist, I began to apply deeper content in my work. About this time I connected with some personal experiences for subject matter.

My late grandfather, Thomas Peterson, Sr. spoke very little of Indian life but when he did I paid close attention. A particular discussion between us took place at a time when he was 100 years of age and myself, 25. He shared with me a tradition he learned of from Tulalip elders when he was in his twenties.

The tradition related to a coming of age and confronting your fears. A man, he said, would journey by canoe alone to Camano Island on the Tulalip reservation. It is an island comprised of a low sunken middle which is said to be a village buried by an earthquake. There spirits roam with great power and among the water dwelled a double headed serpent. In his time there the man would eventually confront this being or spirit to come to peace with his fears.

This shared information meant the world to me. So little is known about old traditions and oral history has nearly become extinct with the loss of our language. This somehow survived and I cherish that moment with my grandfather.

This print commemorates that tradition and gives life to the sea being that embodies our fears. It gives way to the concept of our ancestors that we must find strength in what is unknown and accept what is beyond our powers to change, thus that in and of itself is a power few can truly possess.

Certificate of Authenticity

This print is a limited edition original serigraph. Working from Shaun's original artwork, Paul created stencils for the three colors of *Journey to Inner Strength*. The colors are black, green, and red. This print is one of an edition of 150 hand printed on Arches Cover White paper. In addition, 2 printers proofs and 14 artists proofs were printed on Arches Cover White, for a total of 16 proofs. The paper size of the Arches is 22.25" wide and 22.75" tall. The image size is 19" in diameter.

This edition was printed by Paul Nicholson of Bellevue, WA in 2006 with the assistance of the artist, Shaun Peterson.

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