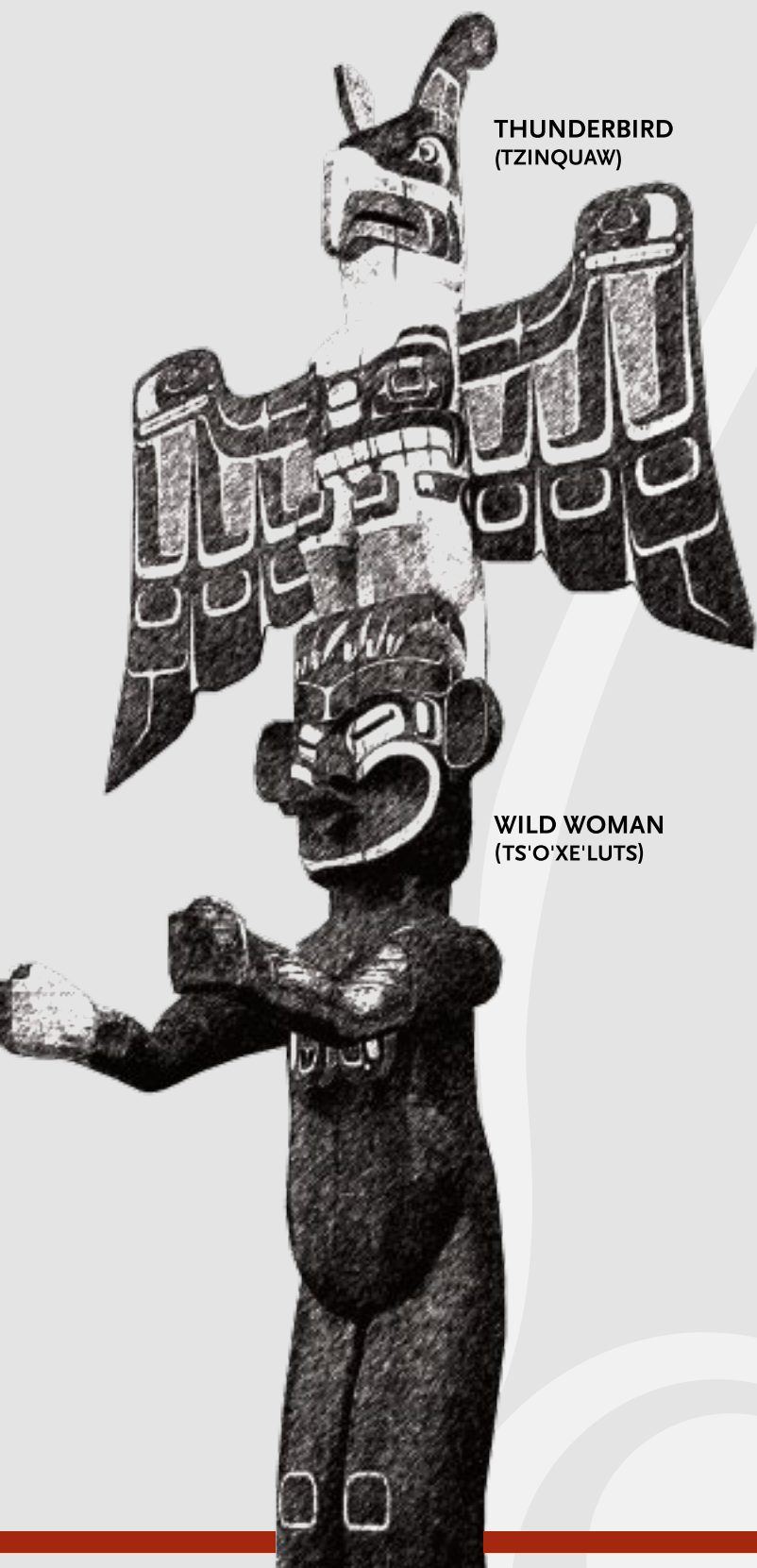


# Thunderbird with Dzunuk'wa



THUNDERBIRD  
(TZINQUAW)

WILD WOMAN  
(TS'O'XE'LUTS)

The myth of Dzunuk'wa (Wild Woman) is known all along the Northwest Coast. This is a replica of a memorial pole for Billie Moon made by Kwakwaka'wakw master carver Hiłamas (Willie Seaweed) and stands in the 'Yalis cemetery (Alert Bay, Cormorant Island, off Vancouver Island). Ned wanted to honour Hiłamas' memory and his art form.

*On top is a Kwankwanxwalige' (Thunderbird). Thunderbird first helped lift our first bighouse beams into place and is a source of mythological and supernatural powers. The fearsome legend of Dzunuk'wa, with her boney face and hanging breasts, is an object of terror and at the same time of power and wealth. Her arms are outstretched in a sign of mourning, or at times poised to grab a strayed child from outside a village. Dzunuk'wa is usually painted black and red; colours that represents the underworld (Ned Matilpi, Interview, Jan 2013).<sup>©</sup>*



1990 | Size: 19'11" (6.1 m)

## Moopin'kim (Ned Matilpi)

Ned was born in 1957 and is from the Ma'amtagila Band (Matilpi Village/Adams River, near Sayward) of the Kwakwaka'wakw people. His father, Oscar Matilpi, influenced his carving. Ned started carving at the age of sixteen, and this was his first, major, solo pole as a carver. He now carves ceremonial masks and works within the community to bring back the old ways of the Kwakwaka'wakw people.<sup>©</sup>



Courtesy of the artist.