

Kwagu't Bear holding a Seal



FROG
(WUXUS)

BEAR
(SPE'UTH)

SEAL
('ES-HW)

Richard's father, Henry Hunt, was commissioned by the Royal BC Museum in Victoria to carve a traditional house post for their display of a Kwagu't big house. This pole is Richard's interpretation of the work that Henry did for the museum. *The Frog on top of the pole represents the Frog Dance that belonged to my mum. The Kwagu't Bear represents the dance of the Animal Kingdom from the forest and also the Hamatsa*.* *The Seal is also part of the same dance* (Richard Hunt, Interview, Sept 2012). Richard is strong in his traditions of the Kwagu't people. The dances that are represented on this pole are only allowed to be danced by Richard's family. When asked why he chose these figures, Richard responded, *It's the way my dad did it.*©

*Hamatsa is a high-ranking dance in Kwagu't culture.



1987 | Size: 11'9" (3.6 m)

Gwe-la-y-gwe-la-gya-les (Richard Hunt)

Richard is Kwagu't and was born in 1951 in 'Yalis (Alert Bay, Cormorant Island, off Vancouver Island), BC. His parents were Henry Hunt from Tsakis (Fort Rupert) and his mother, Helen, is from Dzawada'enuxw (Kingcome Inlet). Richard learned to carve from his father. Richard has been honoured many times for his cultural work including the Order of BC and the Order of Canada.©



Courtesy of Jane Mertz.