

## The Air and the Land



RAVEN  
(SPAAL')

BEAVER  
(SQUAL'EW')

Harold shared his family's story about traditional carving: *This is what my grandfather told me before I started... everything is always about the balance...traditional, right from the start.* It is well-known in First Nations culture that there is always a balance in life.

Harold feels most comfortable using the raven and the beaver figures, which are his family clans. *The symbolism is the air and the land, we have to learn to balance that. Both are Mother Earth's cleaners...to keep Mother Earth clean. That's why I chose to do that. It's the symbolism, the green around the eyes. It's what the animals see, Mother Earth, on the trees and mountains, it's green. The pole is also about motivation. The Raven draws people to it and the Beaver represents an educator for the young, the builders* (Harold Joe, Interview, Oct 2012).<sup>©</sup>



1986 | Size: 12'1" (3.7 m)

### Yutxwam (Harold Joe)

Harold was born in Duncan in 1942, and is Coast Salish. His family is of Penelakut, Samuna', WSÁNEĆ (Saanich) heritage. He is a well-respected educator in the community. He watched both of his grandfathers carve masks, canoes, and totem poles and he started carving at the age of twelve.<sup>©</sup>



Courtesy of Jane Mertz.