



OWL  
(SPULQWITTH'E')

HUMAN SPIRIT

CHIEF  
(SH-SIEM)

## Owl Spirit

The design of this pole was inspired by Tom's respect for his mother. *My late grandfather, my late aunts and my mother always believed their suli (spirit) to be Spulqwitth'e' (Owl). That's why I did an Owl, to respect my mother. Rather than leave bare wood at the bottom, I wanted the Chief to have on his Killer Whale clan regalia. I cut my hand with a chisel, when I was carving the hand on the Chief figure, and when I was done I carved five stitches on the bottom of the Chief's hand. Wood is the perfect medium, you don't make mistakes, you make modifications with wood* (Tom LaFortune, Interview, Oct 2012).<sup>©</sup>



1986 | Size: 11'7" (3.5 m)

### KETÍWFEL (Tom LaFortune)

Tom was born in Duncan in 1959 and is of Coast Salish heritage. He is from the Tsawout First Nation of the WSÁNEĆ (Saanich) peoples. Tom has worked with wood since the age of eleven. He honed his carving skills with master carver Simon Charlie, while working alongside his brothers Doug and Francis.

Tom's work is recognizable by his distinctive choice of colour.<sup>©</sup>



Courtesy of Jane Mertz.