



DUNCAN

Clan Totem of our Nations

In Kwakwaka'wakw culture, woman “ts'adaq” are the life givers, chief makers and the carriers of our cultural property. In many of the most sacred Kwakwaka'wakw ceremonies, it is only the woman that can perform and fulfill the spiritual roles that are able to complete such traditions. It is always said in the traditional gatherings that the children “gingananam” are the “reason” that the Nation continues to carry on with their traditions and cultural ways.

The Bear, “Gila” to our Kwakwaka'wakw People, symbolizes the power and authority that our noble ancestors and Chiefs carry throughout our territories. As a reminder to our people about the great teachings that were shared through this union, we carve the bear on our house posts to remind us of our responsibilities to our guests when we invite them into our houses. We are to protect and guard all who have honoured us by responding to our invitation and must ensure that they are treated with respect and honour while in our house.

The salmon “kutala” is our greatest resource on our BC coast. It is the salmon that has allowed numerous nations to survive with abundance and wealth. Among our Kwakwaka'wakw Nations, we believe that when twins are born, they are a gift from the Salmon People. Twins are entitled to perform the Salmon Dance and usually a composer will create a new song specifically for that set of twins to dance and celebrate the special gift of twins.©



BALD EAGLE
(YUXWULE')

SUN
(SUMSHATUT)

MOTHER
(TEN)

CHILDREN
(KW'UMUT)

BEAR
(SPE'UTH)

TWIN SALMON
(STS'IYAYU
STSEELHTUN)

REVERSE:
BUBBLE MAN
(BUBBLE MAN)



Canada

2017 | Size: 22' (6.7 m)

Tommy was born in 1964 in Victoria, BC, and given the native name of Waławidi. He is a member of the Kwaguł, or Kwakwaka'wakw Nation. Tommy began apprenticing at the age of twelve with his father, Hereditary Chief George Hunt. Tommy has also learned under the guidance of Sam Henderson. Tommy's family is deeply involved in the potlatch system and many of his masks have been presented at these potlatches.

Tommy has earned the title of master carver and apprentices younger artists.©

Tommy Hunt Jr.

