



CALVIN A. HUNT COPPER MAKER GALLERY

An art form unique to the Northwest Coast of British Columbia, totem poles are three-dimensional sculptural figures carved out of western red cedar. These photos give you a sample of the different types of totem poles available for commission. For more info, contact us and we will be happy to assist you with your inquiries.

The Kwakwaka'wakw style totem pole communicates a family's history by bearing the crests they own. These crests, derived from a legend or myth, usually from an ancestor who became or was encountered by a being from mythical times. The ancestor and all of his descendants have the right to use these Kwakiutl crests.

Poles usually bear images of humans, birds (Eagle, Raven, Thunderbird), or creatures from the sea (Whale, Sea Otter, Seal, sea urchin, Salmon) or the forest (Frog, Bukwas, Dzunukwa, Bear).

There can be any number of figures on one pole, depending on the type of pole you choose, what the pole is intended for, and the environment where it will be situated.

Typically, Kwagu'ł poles are carved of western red cedar, texturized with the adze, and painted in Kwagu'ł traditional colors of black, red, green, brown, yellow, or gray. Any appendages on a Northwest Coast totem pole, such as the Thunderbird's wings and horns, Raven's wings and ears, Killer whale's dorsal fin, Welcome Figure's outstretched arms, a bird's beak, are added on.

Email, or give us a call, if you would like to commission one of our many styles of totem poles. We have great freight companies that we utilize - reputable and reliable! All necessary crating can be done right here in our workshop.

Calvin's accomplished a wide range of Northwest Coast totem poles, from 6' interior poles to the 60' outdoor poles. Major corporations, museums, government agencies and private collectors have sought Calvin out for his expertise, professionalism and cultural awareness of his Northwest Kwakiutl coast background.

All commissions are custom ordered according to

1. height
2. diameter
3. number of figures (depending on height) and
4. crating and shipping.

The size and height are largely based on where the pole will be situated, either indoors or outdoors, and budget.

The different types of poles include:

House Posts - poles which supported the main beam inside of a house

House Frontal Poles - poles which stood against the front of the house

Memorial Poles - in honor of a loved one who has passed away, which is placed in front of the owner's house

Grave Markers - poles placed where a person is buried

Welcome Figures - which are figures with arms outstretched, welcoming visitors