



# Tsitsakalam

## Kesu: The Art and Life of Doug Cranmer

*Upcoming Exhibition to Honour the Artistic Contributions of Doug Cranmer*

Friends and family of Doug Cranmer are working with the UBC Museum of Anthropology (MoA) to curate an exhibition and publish a book about Doug's life, art, and influence. The exhibition is titled, "Kesu: The Art and Life of Doug Cranmer", and is scheduled to open in the Audain Gallery, MoA's new 5,800 square foot temporary exhibition space in early 2012, remaining into September 2012. The exhibition will then travel to the Museum at Campbell River and then to the U'mista Cultural Centre in early 2013.

Doug Cranmer preferred to be called a "whittler and doodler" rather than an artist. Nonetheless, he was successful in making a living from his artwork at a time when the Native Northwest Coast art market was just beginning to expand. Opening his own gallery, The Talking Stick Gallery between 1962-1967 was then a novel enterprise for a Native artist.

Commissioned by museums, corporations, and private collectors across the world, his monumental totem poles, house fronts, canoes, and carvings demonstrate his global impact. At home in his own community of Alert Bay, he served as artistic designer for the building of the U'mista Cultural Centre and the new Alert Bay Big House. A life-long mentor, Doug was responsible for teaching and inspiring generations of young artists in Alert Bay, Vancouver and beyond.

Doug is well-known as an artistic innovator. Although grounded in the ancestral, artistic lineage of Mungo Martin and traditional Kwakwaka'wakw legends and forms, he developed his own unique style that is understated, elegant and modern. With years of experience as a logger, he understood wood and used a chainsaw with great agility. Always interested in new challenges and technologies, he experimented with

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Doug Cranmer instructing Dawna Ambers during the carving program in 1979. UPN-01493

*Photograph by Vickie Jensen*

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A portion of the Potlatch Collection on display in Dresden for "Die Macht des Schenkens".

Photography courtesy of Facebook page, "Exhibition Exchange The Power of Giving"

## The Power of Giving: Die Macht des Schenkens

The exhibit opened in Alert Bay on April 21, 2011 and was photographed extensively for U'mista by Christina Cook. We hosted many German guests and after welcoming them to Kwakwaka'wakw territory, Chief Bill Cranmer spoke first before introducing a short round of speakers including Linda Reid, Deputy Speaker of the House, Michael Barry, Mayor of Alert Bay, Gerry Furney, Mayor of Port McNeill, Claus Deimel, Director, Staatliche Ethnographische Sammlungen



Opening day in Alert Bay. The Power of Giving. On display at U'mista until the 28th of August 2011

Photograph by Christina Cook

*Doug Cranmer continued from previous page*



different media and artistic methods while employing and adapting techniques and tools to embrace efficiency and ease of production.

This retrospective recognizes Doug Cranmer's aesthetic and educational contributions and aims to honour the man, his artwork, the philosophies that guided his actions, and the effects he had, and still has, on artists and the art market.

If you knew Doug or were influenced by his artwork and would like to contribute your reflections, please contact the curator, Jennifer Kramer to schedule a phone conversation. The UBC Museum of Anthropology is still seeking artworks to include in the exhibition and/or book, so if you know of an art piece's whereabouts please contact:

Jennifer Kramer Curator, Pacific Northwest  
 jennifer.kramer@ubc.ca T 604.512.2091 | F 604.822.2974  
 6393 NW Marine Drive, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2  
 www.moa.ubc.ca





“Gifts We’ve Been Given,” 30th anniversary exhibit on display at U’mistá until November 2011.

Photograph & article courtesy of J. Johnston

## Highlights From 30 Years of U’mistá

On November 1st, 1980 there was great joy in Alert Bay. After years of struggle and negotiations, our portion of the Potlatch Collection was coming home. On November 6th, 2010 U’mistá Cultural Centre celebrated its 30th Anniversary.

We are fortunate that the opening was filmed, and from it was born the award-winning documentary, “Box of Treasures” which has been shown to countless visitors since its debut in 1983. There were speeches from our guests, and other’s who were present on our opening day. Bill Cranmer thanked all of our previous directors but especially Andrea Sanborn, whose loss we still feel in significant moments in U’mistá’s history such as our anniversary.

Some of the hilights from our past 30 years include producing award winning films, loaning pieces to other traveling exhibits, producing our own traveling exhibit, participating in a large cultural exchange with the SKD and fostering opportunities for preserving and promoting traditional culture. . Below is a sampling of titles from U’mistá’s projects over the past 30 years.

The Living World: Plants and Animals of the Kwakwaka’wakw

MUNGO MARTIN: A Slender Thread

Spirit Lodge

*Potlatch: A Strict Law Bids us Dance*

Reciprocal Research Network

THE POWER OF GIVING

SVC (Salmonista  
Video Crew)

**Box of Treasures**

Mystery Lodge

**Kas’ida’asa san’s Galga’lis**

Learning Kwakwala Language Series

Anglican Church Hymnal

**’Nam Łanxa Kwax**



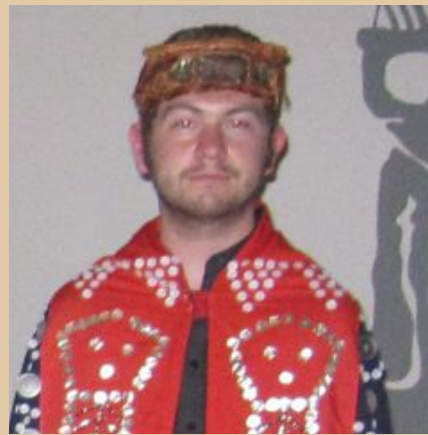
## Introducing Trevor Isaac

I began my Arts Administration Internship in July 2011 with Karen Estrin as Interim Manager - and later Sarah Holland as Executive Director, and with Juanita Johnston as mentor.

My first undertaking as an Arts Administration Intern was researching family art protocols in Totem Poles taken from "Totem Row" in Alert Bay and now housed in various museums. I gathered information on the totem itself, the owner's family history, cross-referenced this information with legends (if possible), and studied the artistic style of the carver who created the totem. An article about one of the totems researched appeared in U'mista's Fall 2010 Newsletter. The pole, called Gwa'wis – *Raven-of-the-Sea*, was made for John Drabble by Mungo Martin. The compiled totem information can be found in the U'mista library and archives.

Using the Reciprocal Research Network (RRN) I conducted research on cultural objects from multiple museums that house Northwest Coast Artifacts. I created online "projects" on the Kwakwaka'wakw such as Feast Dishes, Button Blankets and Dance Aprons. Collaborative research is the foundation of the RRN website and it is a great tool to learn more about Kwakwaka'wakw and other cultures. I enjoy researching and just browsing at home personally and encourage everyone to utilize this remarkable website. [www.rrnpilot.org](http://www.rrnpilot.org)

For U'mista's 30th Anniversary, I co-curated an exhibition entitled "*Gifts We Have Been Given: U'mista Celebrates 30 Years of Generosity*". This was a wonderful exhibition to be a part of. A vast amount of artwork is displayed in many forms including miniature totem poles, large "masks" to be worn down the dancers back, woven basketry, original paintings and hand made doilies all displaying crest figures. This exhibit connects traditional to contemporary arts pieces presenting a wide range of artistic mediums. The exhibition is a great success and has been extended.



Trevor Isaac

*Photo and article by Trevor Isaac*

If you have the opportunity to be in Alert Bay we would love for everyone to come view this exhibit throughout the summer months.

Another aspect of my work as Arts Administration Intern was determining with local artists, how U'mista could best assist them in the long term. Grant opportunities were key for the majority of artists consulted. I created two identical binders containing available grants for native artists, one, housed here at U'mista and the other in the local Carver's Shop. The grants are for both emerging *and* established visual artists. The binder contains helpful information on how to construct your Artist Portfolio, how to write a grant and a condensed form of each grant containing specific information to quickly find suitable grants for specific projects. After compiling the information, I assisted individuals in using the binder to help find funding to further their artistic skills and careers. There are numerous funding opportunities for our native people and am excited to see the local artists use these resources to further their art form.

I would like to acknowledge First People's Heritage, Language & Culture Council for their generous support in making this incredible experience possible. Finally, Gilakasla U'mista Cultural Centre for the opportunity to work on these projects.



# Gifts, Grants and Donations...

In the past few issues of T'sit'sakalam, we covered the donations received in our Library. In this issue, we will focus on the generosity of our donors over the past few years. If I have missed anyone, I sincerely apologize. It is our donors who enable us to do the important work that we do.

## Gilakas'la!

### 2008

Ann Morris  
Mary Dunnam and James Dunnam  
Michael J. Audain (Potlatch Figure)  
Natasha Romero  
Cathryn Blanco  
Megan Sterling  
Christine Murphy  
Jennifer Richards  
Carol MacDonald  
Cheryl and Andrew Katnick  
Pat and Roman Shklanka  
David King  
Mark Hewitt  
Richard Dunn  
Herbert G. A. Wilson  
Simon Lawrence  
Heffel Fine Art Auction House  
Michael and Karen Haber  
Alexander R. Currie  
Pat Whiting  
Harry and Sally Sutherland  
Marlene Share  
Neil Conlon  
Latiesha Faakas  
David Sheffield and Karen Duffek  
Kevin and Katie Overstrom  
Anonymouse  
Lan Davies

### 2009

Anonymous  
Doug Aberley  
Estate of the late Elizabeth Valentine Prangnell  
Inner Coast Natural Resource Centre Society (Lawrence Ambers Scholarship fund)

Kate Rogers Gessert  
Cornelia Bohne

### 2010

Cornelia Bohne  
Anonymous  
Doug Aberley (Lawrence Amber's Scholarship Fund)

### 2011

Peter Macnair & Jay Stewart, "*In Memory of Andrea Sanborn*"  
David and Margaret Thorsell, "*In Memory of Sadie Weinstein, mother of Marty Weinstein and Patricia Anderson*"  
Miriam Clavir

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### Kwakwaka'wakw Teachings

*Honor your family, whatever you do reflects on them and their teachings.*

*Respect yourself, to respect others you must first respect yourself.*

*Obey your Elders, to gain wisdom you need to listen.*

*Watch what you say, once your words come out you can't take them back and they always come full circle back to you.*

*Speak the truth; if you lie you will be labeled as Tlik'was and no one will ever believe in you.*

*Do not take what is not yours, if you steal you will be branded as "Galut'likw and never trusted.*

*Share, give of yourself to family and friends, this is what our culture is based on.*

*Cherish the land, our ancestors were blessed with it and it has sustained us from the beginning of time.*

*Friendship, the best thing you can be to someone else is a friend.*

*Have gratitude; remember to give thanks to our Creator for everything we have.*



# THE POWER OF GIVING

The Power of Giving title wall in Alert Bay, utilizing hands designed by Corrine Hunt.

*Courtesy of Corrine Hunt*

## Corrine Hunt

– *killer whale scratching her back on the beach.*

This is the name given to Corrine by her paternal grandmother, Abusa, in 1965.

Born in Alert Bay British Columbia in 1959, Corrine has been creating contemporary art that reflects the themes and traditions of her First Nations Komoyue and Tlingit heritage since 1985.

Corrine's works include engraved gold and silver jewelry and accessories, custom furnishings in carved stainless steel and reclaimed wood, modern totem poles and other sculptural installations.

A member of the Raven Gwa'wina clan from Ts'akis, a Komoyue village on Vancouver Island, Corrine's rich family history includes internationally renowned First Nations artists Henry, Richard and Tony Hunt, all of whom have influenced her art. Uncle Norman Brotchie was also an early teacher and mentor. Corrine too has mentored First Nations and other artists and continues to be a strong and vocal supporter of the arts in British Columbia.

From the beginning of her career engraving rings, bracelets, pendants and broaches, Corrine has searched for unique ways to bring the stories of her First Nations culture to contemporary life. "I want to show how both the First Nations people and the art have evolved," she explains.

In that process, she is continually inventing and re-inventing stories from her culture, honouring her roots and cultivating a refreshing artistic expression at the same time. The results are extraordinary pieces that are both ageless and contemporary. The engravings are not overly ornate; like poetry, they convey their message using as few lines as possible.

Similarly, the custom furnishings combine materials that speak to old and new, and bring the concept of living culture into contemporary homes. Corrine began designing furniture and other installed art pieces in part because in First Nations households, adorned furnishings are part of daily life. Objects in the home are not only beautiful, they are also practical and infused with cultural significance.



Corrine Hunt.

*Photography courtesy of Shelly Green*



Corinne Hunt and Sutter/Schramm break ground for a Welcome figure sculpture on Georg Treu Square in Dresden yesterday, 27



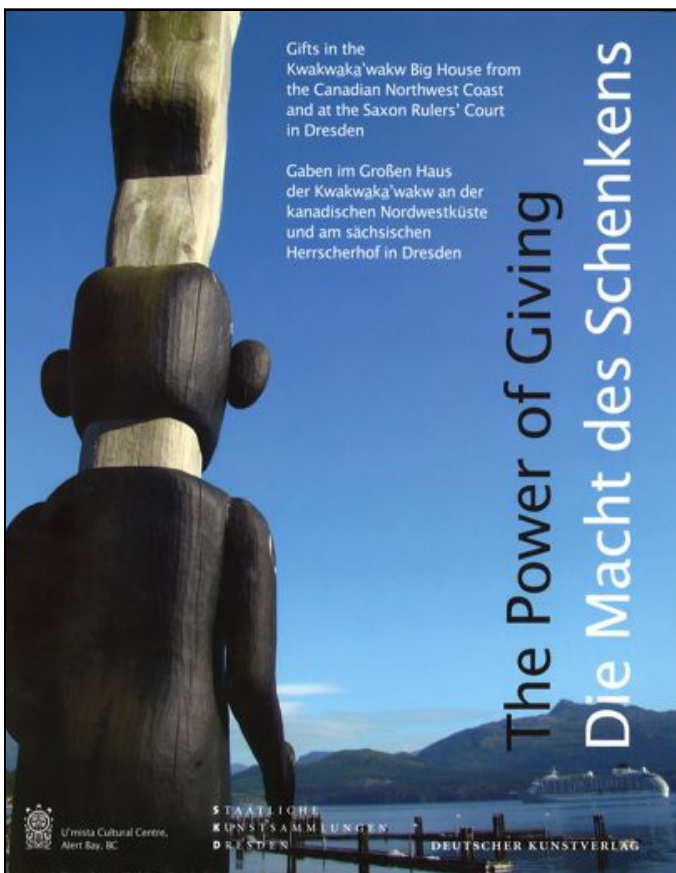
## Announcements!

This is a relatively new section of 'Tsitsakalam, here we will be putting in notices from our membership. Please contact U'mista if you have anything you'd like to contribute to the newsletter or announcement's you'd like to make regarding anything from missing regalia to potlatch announcements. We'll do our best to include it. Gilakas'la!

Maxine Matilpi is looking for a brown "grocery box" size box of photographs. It is 3/4 full and some of the photos have plastic covers. They are mostly Ma'amtigila black and white 8 x 10 photographs. There is also information on the November 1978 Matilpi Potlatch. If you have any information or know the whereabouts of the box, please contact us here at U'mista and we can relay your message to Maxine.

Vivien Cranmer is looking for a Dance Screen painted by Doug Cranmer of a Hamatsa with Sun Rays design. Please contact Vivien directly or you can relay a message to her through us.

U'mista no longer has a "lending" library. The technology (VHS) was out of date and the videos were not returned. We donated relevant videos from our former lending collection to various organizations in town. A number of videos were given to the Hospital for the use and enjoyment of the extended care patients, the Maya'anŋ and finally a few of the videos were donated to the 'Nangis First Nation Treatment Centre. We hope their clients and patients are all enjoying the videos.



Cover photograph of Exhibit Catalogue for, "The Power of Giving"

Cover Photograph by Claus Deimel

## On the U'mista Book Shelf...

The Power of Giving The Potlatch in the Kwakwaka'wakw Big House from the Canadian Northwest Coast

Die Macht des Schenkens Der Potlatch im Groben Haus der Kwakwaka'wakw an der kanadischen Nordwestküste.

This 256 page exhibit catalogue features the objects in *The Power of Giving* exhibits, both here and in Dresden. It features contributing articles by Chief William T. Cranmer, Linda Reid, Sarah E. Holland, Joseph Isaac, Wedlidi Speck and Marianne Nicholson among others. It also features interviews with William Wasden Jr., Pauline Alfred, Marcus Alfred and Wayne Alfred. The catalogue features beautiful photographs of U'mista's collection by Christina Cook.

It is available in the U'mista Gift Shop while supplies last! At \$24.95 its a fantastic deal! Hurry, we have less then 100 copies left for sale!

Only  
\$24.<sup>95</sup>



## Become a Member...

Is your Membership up to date? Do you want to become a member or volunteer? Do you know what a membership will give you? Find out more! Contact us at the number or email below.

## Your Opinion Matters...

Please let us know what you think of our Newsletter. We welcome any suggestions, ideas, and critique!

Come friends, that you may see the manner in which I perform the winter ceremonial. This was given to us by the creator of our ancestors. Your ways, Kwagu'ł, differ greatly from ours. They were given to you in the beginning of the world. Take care and do not change your old customs, Kwagu'ł!

*(Gusgimukw chief, at Fort Rupert, November 23, 1895)*



## U'mista Cultural Centre

PO Box 253

Alert Bay, BC V0N 1A0

Phone 250.974.5403 Fax 250.974.5499

www.umista.ca email info@umista.ca

