



Coastal Peoples
FINE ARTS GALLERY
EST. 1996

Artist Bio

Mark Garfield

Mark, like many artists on the west coast, started to carve from a young age inspired by the wealth of First Nations art and culture that so densely populates British Columbia.

Mark began creating artwork by first drawing and sketching and then very quickly progressed to carving the designs of Totems, masks, bowls and boxes he was inspired by during his youth.

He grew up in small towns with large First Nations communities; despite his non-aboriginal heritage his constant friendship and connection with the First Nations since childhood inspired him to pursue his passion for creating First Nations art.

After graduating from High School in Lillooet, Mark moved to North Vancouver where his interests broadened to international aboriginal art. Influences of which are evident in his work today.

Mark went on to work with renowned artist Larry Rosso of the Carrier Nation. Larry was heavily involved in the Northwest Coast Artist Guild, the Northwest Coast Indian Cultural Society, and the Indian Arts and Crafts Society of British Columbia. Larry was fortunate to apprentice under master Haida artist Robert Davidson and Kwakwaka'wakw artist and hereditary Chief Doug Cranmer.

Under the expert tutelage of Larry, Mark honed his skills to a level reached by few. Mark's work takes traditional elements of Northwest Coast design and incorporates it with his contemporary knowledge of other art forms. He often works in many mediums including cast bronze. His ability to amalgamate aboriginal styles sets him apart among his peers and has earned him a distinctive voice that bridges culture through his evocative ideas.

His work can be found in corporate and private collections around the globe and even though he now travels more frequently, he still continues to make pieces out of respect for and connection to First Nations culture from the Pacific Northwest Coast and from other regions of the world.