

■ Travelling exhibition now available for booking from June 2019 onward!

BODY LANGUAGE

Reawakening Cultural Tattooing of the Northwest

Do you qualify for the Exhibition Circulation Fund through the Department of Canadian Heritage?

Search online for "Museum Assistance Program."

HOME GALLERY | The Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art

START OF TOUR | June 2019

FEATURED ARTISTS | Corey Bulpitt (Haida) | Dean Hunt (Heiltsuk) | Dion Kaszas (Nlaka'pamux) Nahaan (Tlingit) | Nakkita Trimble (Nisga'a)

Body Language is the first exhibition to fully explore the rich history and artistry of Indigenous tattooing on the Northwest Coast. Since ancient times, both men and women on the coast marked their clan crests and symbols of personal identity onto their skin. Tattoos were a celebration and recognition of special life events, potlatches, and social rank. After 1885, when the practice of tattooing and potlatches was banned, the display of personal crest designs was transferred to clothing and jewelry.

The exhibition is guest curated by Dion Kaszas, an Nlaka'pamux tattoo artist and scholar. The five Indigenous artists featured in the exhibition explore traditional tattooing within their own cultures. As these traditions re-emerge, they are transcending mere decoration to provide healing, protection, and a profound sense of

belonging. The exhibition includes historical and contemporary photographs, along with contemporary art related to tattooing designs.

"Indigenous tattooing and piercing is deeply connected to the struggle and triumphs of Indigenous peoples," says Kaszas. "The reclaiming of these practices is symbolic of our process of decolonization. Having a physical, ancestral mark helps in communicating our identities and instills pride as we make ourselves visible as the original peoples of this land. It is also significant for many – particularly those who are displaced – on their journey of self-discovery and understanding of what it means to be Indigenous."

www.billreidgallery.ca/blogs/exhibitions-page/body-language-reawakening-cultural-tattooing-of-the-northwest

EXHIBITION COMPONENTS

- + 8 banners (3 x 6 feet)
- + 22 framed photographs
- + 4 wall-hung artworks
- + 1 sculpture (to be displayed in a case)
- + Contemporary artifacts (to be displayed in a case)
- + Individual labels
- + 1 DVD film featuring the 5 artists and key themes
- + A sponsor panel

TARGET AUDIENCE

- + Youth, Adults, Families

LANGUAGES

- + English
- + French language pamphlet accompanies the exhibition

SPACE REQUIREMENTS

- + Linear Footage: 105 ft.

LOAN FEES

- + \$1,000 for a 12-week minimum rental, additional time negotiable
- + Shipping and storage costs not included in rental fee

ADDITIONALS

- + 80-page full colour publication available on consignment
- + French language pamphlets available

**Bill Reid
Gallery**

of Northwest Coast Art

Celebrating 10 Years

LOCATION

639 Hornby Street
Vancouver, BC
Canada V6C 2G3

CONTACT

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BODY LANGUAGE

celebrates the works of 5 Northwest Indigenous tattoo artists:

1



Corey Bulpitt | Haida

Bulpitt is the great-great-grandson of renowned artists Charles Edenshaaw and Louis Collison. He is known internationally for his fusion of hip hop culture and Haida traditional style in large-scale spray painted pieces. He has created work for the National Gallery of Canada, Facebook Head Office in Seattle, and the Vancouver Mural Festival. Working with media as diverse as wood, argillite, gold, silver, glass, textiles, spray paint, and traditional Kiida (hand-poke) tattooing, Corey has steeped himself in the traditional work of his ancestors, forming a foundation for his distinctive contemporary style.

2



Dean Hunt | Heiltsuk

Visual Artist, traditional Tattoo Practitioner & Music Producer from Waglisla (Bella Bella), Hunt underwent a formal five-year apprenticeship with his father Bradley Hunt and older brother Shawn Hunt, where he learned the skills of Heiltsuk carving and design. He uses the tools his ancestors fought to hold onto through times of hardship and oppression, not only in his more traditional art practices, but also in his contemporary use of sound. Hunt studied Studio Engineering and Music Production at Columbia Academy in Vancouver. He also completed a four-week artist intensive at Earthline Tattoo Residency.

3



Dion Kaszas | Nlaka'pamux

Dion is the Guest Curator of Body Language. He is a tattoo artist, painter, teacher and scholar of mixed Hungarian, Métis, and Nlaka'pamux (Interior Salish) heritage and has spearheaded the revival of tattooing in the Northwest of North America among his people since 2012. Kaszas co-founded the Earthline Tattoo Collective alongside Jordan Bennett (Mi'kmaq) and Amy Malbeuf (Cree/Metis). They aim to enhance, expand, and support the work of traditional and cultural Indigenous tattoo practices, through residencies to teach hand poke and skin stitch tattoo techniques. Dion's passion for tattooing extends beyond his artistic work into academic pursuits of a Masters degree in Indigenous Studies at the University of British Columbia Okanagan.

4



Nahaan | Tlingit

Nahaan's work reflects his teachings and cultural background. Practicing as a tattoo artist, he focuses exclusively on working within the spirit and design style of Northern formline. As a carver, painter, and designer he emulates the visual storytelling crafts so dear to his people of Southeast Alaska. He is a spoken word poet and helped to found "Woosh Kinaadeiyel" in Juneau, Alaska, which has since grown into a thriving creative mainstay in the capital city. He focuses on the aspects of community empowerment and self-mastery through the methods of decolonization, Indigenization, and activism.

5



Nakkita Trimble | Nisga'a

Born and raised in Prince Rupert, BC, Trimble began her tattoo career in 2012 and progressed into reviving traditional coastal gihlee'e as a means to reawakening the Nisga'a tattooing art form in her nation. Driven by her passion to learn more about Nisga'a art and culture, Nakkita worked with Nisga'a Elders and undertook research to learn about and identify the significance of traditional Nisga'a tattoos.