

# BC's Guide to Arts & Culture



# WEEKLY ARTS DIGEST

BC's Aboriginal Culture Aug 29 2019



Across British Columbia, traditions and cultures exist which surpass the history of our province. First Nation art displays the creativity and respect of an ancestral history. You can now discover the beauty of aboriginal culture through museums, galleries, and more.

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#### Nisga'a Museum | New Aiyansh

Welcome to Hli Goothl Wilp-Adokshl Nisga'a, a name representing the four tribes that make up the Nisga'a Nation. The museum displays artifacts of all four peoples within its permanent exhibition, an assemblage of 300+ art objects that left the Nass Valley in the latter part of the 19th Century and early part of the 20th Century. During the struggle for our treaty,

#### Tems Swiya Museum | Sechelt

The Tems Swiya Museum is located in Sechelt, uniquely at the centre of Shishalh land. The museum is managed by our Shishalh people. Last year the museum unveiled a digital face reconstruction of a high status shishálh family, estimated to be 4,000 years old. The exhibition is called, 'kw' enusitsht tems stutula which means, Face to Face with our ancestors. This Nisga'a elders and leaders fought to ensure this scattered legacy would find its way back home. Now, housed in a permanent place of honour, this treasury of Nisga'a culture ranks as one of the preeminent collections of Northwest Coast aboriginal art. exhibition took three years of work to construct and was a collaboration between the shishalh Nation, Canadian Museum of History, and the University of Toronto. Museum tours, long house tours and a local totems tour is available to visitors

Discover the Shishalh People

Engage with the Nisga'a Nation



#### Alcheringa Gallery | Victoria

Alcheringa is an Aboriginal Australian word for the Dreamtime, the mythical time of creation, when the world and all living creatures were sung into existence. It is believed that singing and dancing maintain the state of the landscape, and that these invisible songlines hold the earth together. We are proud of the work we have done to recognize and promote the work of indigenous artists in all stages of their career, and from all over the Pacific Rim. In an era of truth and reconciliation we promote and support the art of contemporary indigenous artists from the Northwest Coast of Canada, Papua New Guinea, and Australia, to the Canadian and international fine art market.



#### Awatin Aboriginal Art Campbell River

Awatin Aboriginal Art is family owned and operated by Darlene & Ernie Smith of Ehattesaht. The Gallery features a beautiful selection of Authentic Northwest Native Art. The selections include some precious treasures of Masters long ago as well as some newer pieces handcrafted by both well-known and emerging Artists. Always have an Artist on Site who offers Custom Jewelry Service in-house. Demand for Ernie's custom jewelry has grown considerably since taking NIC's Metal Jewellery Design Program in 2015. At Awatin Art we like to buy, sell and trade Art.

Enhance Your Aboriginal Knowledge

Learn About Awatin Art





Cedar House Gallery a First Nation's owned and operated business specializing in Nuu-chahnulth art, from the First Nations on the West Coast of Vancouver Island. The Gallery is owned and operated by artist Tlehpika Hjalmer Wenstob and his family. Hjalmer is Nuu-chahnulth from Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations, as well as Norwegian and English ancestry. Most days, you will find Hjalmer carving in the gallery, with his family around and his two little kids, Cinkwa and Huumiis, running around the shop. Huumiis is the Nuu-Chah-Nulth word for red cedar, although the actual translation means 'to give to life,' and the gallery's Nuu-Chah-Nulth name -Huumiis Maas (pronounced Who-Mees Ma-As)translates to Cedar House or Huumiis's house.



#### U'Mista Cultural Centre | Alert Bay

The mandate of the U'mista Cultural Society is to ensure the survival of all aspects of the cultural heritage of the Kwakwaka'wakw. One of the objectives of the Society was the development of a facility to carry out the aims of the society. The present facility was opened in November of 1980. The focus of the permanent collection is the "Potlatch Collection". The other permanent exhibits on display include description of the traditional ethnobiology of the Kwakwaka'wakw and origin stories of the Kwakwaka'wakw villages, as well as, historical and contemporary Kwakwaka'wakw objects. Traveling exhibits of significance to the community are also displayed.

Visit the Cedar House

**Reconnect with the Potlatch** 

Exploring BC's Aboriginal Culture is always more fun with friends. Click below to share our News Digest!



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