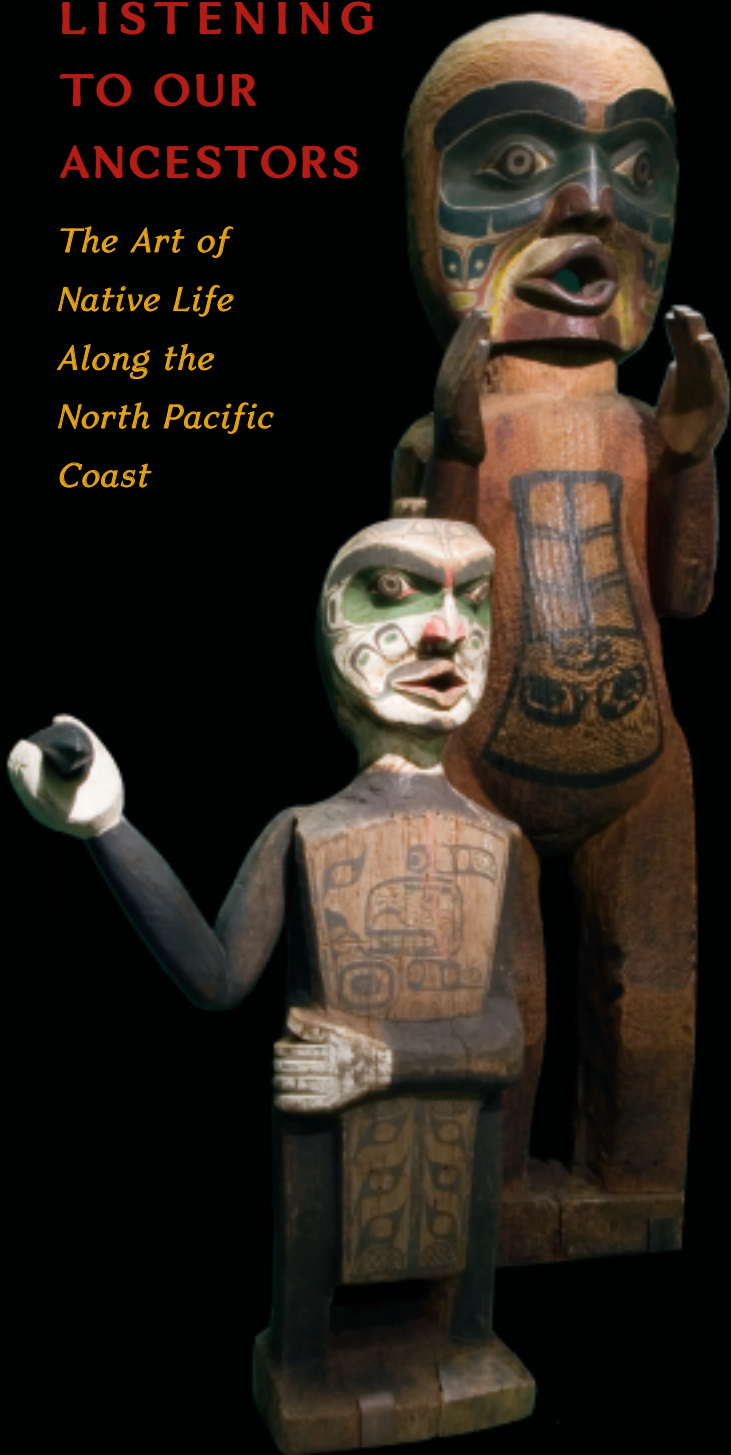


LISTENING TO OUR ANCESTORS

*The Art of
Native Life
Along the
North Pacific
Coast*



Smithsonian
National Museum of the American Indian

LISTENING TO OUR ANCESTORS

The Art of Native Life Along the North Pacific Coast

Native peoples living along the North Pacific Coast merge time-honored values with the modern world. This exhibition's more than 400 objects from the collections of the National Museum of the American Indian demonstrate how Native art from this region connects today's Native North Pacific Coast communities with their lands, customs, and stories.

Representatives from eleven Native nations in Washington State, Canada, and Alaska—the Coast Salish, Makah, Nuu-chah-nulth, Kwakwaka'wakw, Heiltsuk, Nuxalk, Tsimshian, Gitksan, Nisga'a, Haida, and Tlingit—selected the objects. Their perspectives reveal the deeper meaning these objects hold, and how much they are still a part of the way Native North Pacific Coast peoples live. From ceremonial to everyday, these beautiful pieces—including vividly painted ceremonial masks, feast ladles shaped from mountain sheep horns, and intricately woven robes—enable the Native community representatives not only to share lessons from their ancestors, but to listen anew to their voices.

A brief introductory video precedes the exhibition, which consists of eleven galleries, one for each Native nation. Also accompanying the exhibition is a family room, called *Paawats*, which provides fun and educational activities for children age five to eleven.

Listening to Our Ancestors is on view at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., through January 2, 2007.

HOURS AND LOCATION: 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily, closed December 25. Admission: free. The museum is fully accessible. Located on the National Mall between the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum and the U.S. Capitol Building at 4th Street and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. For information call 202-633-1000 or visit our website at www.AmericanIndian.si.edu. To become an NMAI Member, call 1-800-242-NMAI [6624] or click on Support on our website.

NEAREST METRO STATION: L'Enfant Plaza (Blue/Orange Green/Yellow lines). Take the Maryland Avenue exit.

A richly illustrated publication entitled *Listening to Our Ancestors: The Art of Native Life Along the North Pacific Coast* (\$24) is available at the museum's stores and at the online Bookshop at www.AmericanIndian.si.edu.

COVER: (left) Kwakwaka'wakw potlatch figure, ca. 1930. British Columbia, Canada. Carved and painted red cedar, nails, (23/8258); Kwakwaka'wakw welcome figure, 19th c. British Columbia, Canada. Carved and painted red cedar, (11/5244). Photo by Katherine Fogden, NMAI.