

BEAU DICK

(1955 - 2017; B. Village Island, Kingcome Inlet, BC; Kwakwaka'wakw)

Chief Beau Dick, Walas Gwa'yam (1955-2017) was a Kwakwaka'wakw (Musgamakw Dzawada'enuxw First Nation) artist and activist who was acclaimed as one of the Northwest Coast's most versatile and talented carvers. He was born in the community of Alert Bay, BC, and lived in Kingcome Inlet, Vancouver, and Victoria before returning to Alert Bay to live and work. He began carving at an early age, studying under his father, Benjamin Dick, his grandfather, James Dick, and other renowned artists such as Henry Hunt and Doug Cranmer. He also worked alongside master carvers Robert Davidson, Tony Hunt, and Bill Reid.

In support of the Idle No More movement, Dick performed two spiritual and political Copper-breaking ceremonies on the steps of the British Columbia legislature in Victoria in 2013, and on Parliament Hill in Ottawa in 2014. Dick created several important public works, including a transformation mask for the Canadian Pavilion at Expo 86 in Vancouver and the Ga'akstalas Totem Pole for Stanley Park, carved with Wayne Alfred and raised in 1991.

Dick's works have been shown in exhibitions around the world, including Canada House, London, UK (1998); the 17th Biennale of Sydney, Australia (2010); documenta 14 in Athens, GR, and Kassel, DE (2017); and White Columns, New York (2019). He was the recipient of the 2012 VIVA Award and was artist-in-residence at the University of British Columbia's Department of Art History, Visual Art and Theory from 2013 to 2017.

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2024** Walas Gwa'yam / Big, Great Whale, Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York, NY
- 2021** John, Fazakas Gallery, Vancouver, BC
- 2019** Early Works, Fazakas Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Devoured by Consumerism, White Columns, New York, NY; Remai Modern, Saskatoon, SK
- 2018** Beau Dick: Revolutionary Spirit, Audain Art Museum, Whistler, BC
- 2017** NADA Art Fair, Skylight Clarkson North, New York, NY
Supernaturalis: Chief Beau Dick, Gallery Weekend, San Francisco, CA
- 2016** LALAKENIS/ALL DIRECTIONS: A JOURNEY OF TRUTH AND UNITY, Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, Vancouver, BC
- 2012** Ceremonial/Art, Macaulay & Co. Fine Art, Vancouver, BC
- 2010** Pookmis, Blanket Contemporary Art Inc., Vancouver, BC

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2024** Pasa'p, Norberg Hall, Calgary, AB, curated by LaTiesha Fazakas

- 2023** Armory Focus Section, Javits Center, New York, NY, curated by Candice Hopkins
Native American Art Now, Sundaram Tagore, New York, NY, curated by Leesa Fanning
Indian Theater: Native Performance, Art, and Self-Determination since 1969, Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY, curated by Candice Hopkins
- 2022** Land Back, Contemporary Native Art Biennial (BACA) - 6th edition, La Guilde, Montréal, QC
Ripple, Libby Leshgold Gallery, Emily Carr University of Art + Design, Vancouver, BC
- 2021** Beau Dick & Christophe Brunnquell, Consortium, Académie Conti, Vosne Romanée, France
Espressioni. The Proposition, Castello di Rivoli, Rivoli, Italy
- 2020** Winterfest: An Exhibition of Arts and Crafts, Aspen Art Museum, Aspen, CO
Pine's Eye, Talbot Rice Gallery, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK
Independent Art Fair, Fazakas Gallery booth, Spring Studios, New York, NY
Riopelle: The Call of Northern Landscapes and Indigenous Cultures, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal, QC
- 2019** "For every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you" Selections from The Bailey Collection, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal, QC
Hair, Macaulay & Co. Fine Art, Vancouver, BC
- 2018** The Metamorphosis, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Etnos - The Faces of Diversity, Santander Cultural, Porto Alegre, Brazil
NADA Art Fair, Skylight Clarkson North, New York, NY
- 2017** Canadian Biennial, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, ON
Inside The Nest, Simon Preston Gallery, New York, NY
The Pacific, Libby Leshgold Gallery, Emily Carr University of Art + Design, Vancouver, BC
Documenta 14: Learning From Athens, Athens, GR and Kassel, DE
- 2016** This is with it as it is, Audain Art Centre, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC
Art Toronto, Toronto International Art Fair, Toronto, ON
Divergent Convergence, Fazakas Gallery, Vancouver, BC
- 2015** Beau Dick, Nicholas Galanin, Jeneen Frei Njootli, Macaulay & Co. Fine Art, Vancouver, BC
Drama, Fazakas Gallery, Vancouver, BC
The Box of Treasures: Gifts from the Supernatural, Bill Reid Gallery, Vancouver, BC
- 2014** Inappropriate, Fazakas Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Art Toronto, Toronto International Art Fair, Toronto, ON
- 2013** Story, Fazakas Gallery, Vancouver, BC
RezErect: Native Erotica, The Bill Reid Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Cracker-Barrel, Macaulay & Co. Fine Art, Vancouver, BC
Witnesses: Art and Canada's Indian Residential Schools, The Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, Vancouver, BC
The Voyage, or Three Years At Sea Part VI, Charles H Scott Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Sakahàn: International Indigenous Art, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, ON
Gallery Artists, Macaulay & Co. Fine Art, Vancouver, BC
- 2012** Carrying on "Irregardless": Humour in Contemporary Northwest Coast Art, Bill Reid Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Scott Burton, Giuliani Foundation, Rome Shore, Forest and Beyond: Art From the Audain Collection, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, BC

- 2011** Sacred Stories, Timeless Tales: Mythic Traditions in World Art, The Lowe Art Museum, University of Miami, FL
- 2010** 17th International Biennale of Sydney, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, AU
Monster: The Fear Inside, West Vancouver Museum, West Vancouver, BC
- 2009** Challenging Traditions: Contemporary First Nations Art of the Northwest Coast, McMichael Canadian Art Collection, opened in Kleinberg, ON and traveled throughout Canada and Switzerland, closed fall 2010
In the Spirit of the Ancestors: Contemporary Northwest Coast Native Art, The Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, University of Washington, Seattle, WA
- 2006** 75 Years of Collecting: First Nations: Myths and Realities, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, BC
- 2004** Supernatural: Neil Campbell and Beau Dick, curated by Roy Arden, Contemporary Art Gallery of Vancouver, Vancouver, BC
- 1998** Down From the Shimmering Sky, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, BC

Awards

- 2012** VIVA Award, The Jack and Doris Shadbolt Foundation for the Visual Arts

Permanent / Corporate Collections

Museum of Civilization, Hull, QC
 Museum of Anthropology, Vancouver, BC
 Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, BC
 Michael Audain collection, Vancouver, BC
 U'mista Cultural Center, Alert Bay, BC
 The Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, University of Washington, Seattle, WA
 Heard Museum, Phoenix, AZ
 RBC Wealth Collection
 National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, ON
 Hallie Ford Museum of Art, Willamette University, Salem, OR
 Damien Hirst Collection
 Canada House, London, UK
 Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN
 Forge Project Collection, NY
 Gochman Family Collection, NY
 The Bailey Collection, Toronto, ON
 Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA

Publications

- 2023** "An Indigenous Present", Edited by Jeffrey Gibson, New York: DelMonico Books/BIG NDN Press.

- “Unfolding Bodies: Art and Ontology of the American Northwest Coast”, Bernhard Siegert, Anthropologies of Entanglements: Media and Modes of Existence: 197-220.
- 2022** “Transformations: The George and Colleen Hoyt Collection of Northwest Coast Art”, Rebeca J. Dobkins, Tasia D. Riley and Hallie Ford Museum of Art, Hallie Ford Museum of Art, Salem, Oregon.
- 2021** “The Art of Protest: Political Art and Activism”, edited by Alain Bieber and Francesca Gavin, Berlin: Gestalten.
- “Indigenous Practices and Performances of Mobility as Resistance and Resurgence”, Ken Wilson, Studies in Canadian Literature: 47-63.
- 2020** “Riopelle: The Call of Northern Landscapes and Indigenous Cultures”, Exhibition Catalogue, Publishing Department of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts in association with 5 Continents Editions, Milan.
- “For every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you: Selections from the Bailey Collection”, Mary-Dailey Desmarais, Publishing Department of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.
- “Contemporary Art Practice and Indigenous Knowledge”, Gerald McMaster, Zeitschrift für Anglistik und Amerikanistik: 111-128.
- 2019** “Devoured by Consumerism”, LaTiesha Fazakas, Vancouver: Figure 1 Publishing.
- 2017** “Beau Dick: Revolutionary Spirit, Darrin J. Martens, Audain Art Museum”, Vancouver: Figure 1 Publishing.
- 2016** “LALAKENIS/ALL DIRECTIONS: A JOURNEY OF TRUTH AND UNITY”, Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, University of British Columbia.
- 2015** “What About Power?: Inquiries Into Contemporary Sculpture”, Mary Ceruti, Ruba Katrib, London: Black Dog Publishing.
- “The Power Of The Potlatch”, British Columbia Magazine.
- 2010** “The Beauty Of Distance, Songs Of Survival In A Precarious Age”, 17th Biennale of Sydney Catalogue, edited by David Elliot, Sydney Australia: Sydney Biennale.
- 2009** “Challenging Traditions: Contemporary First Nations Art of the Northwest Coast”, Ian Thom, Vancouver/Toronto: Douglas & McIntyre.
- 2004** “Supernatural: Neil Campbell And Beau Dick”, Roy Arden, Contemporary Art Gallery of Vancouver, Vancouver BC
- 1998** “Down From the Shimmering Sky: Masks of the Northwest Coast”, Peter Macnair, Robert Joseph, Bruce Grenville, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver/Toronto: Douglas & McIntyre.
- 1994** “Spirit Faces: Contemporary Masks of the Northwest Coast”, Gary Wyatt, Vancouver/Toronto: Douglas & McIntyre.
- 1991** “Chiefly Feasts: The Enduring Kwakiutl Potlatch”, Aldona Jonaitis, American Museum of Natural History, Seattle & London: University of Washington Press, Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre.
- 1984** “The Legacy: Tradition And Innovation In Northwest Coast Indian Art”, Peter Macnair, Robert Joseph, Bruce Grenville, Vancouver/Toronto: Douglas & McIntyre.