

COLE SPECK

(B. 1991 Alert Bay, BC; Kwakwaka'wakw)

Cole Speck was raised on the 'Namgis reserve on the island of Alert Bay, BC. Speck comes from a strong cultural and artistic heritage. His great grandfather was the late Chief John Speck of the Tlowitsis, father of the late Henry Speck Sr. Cole is also the great grandson of the late Harry Hanuse of Mamalalaka (Village Island).

As an apprentice of the late master carver Beau Dick, Speck continues to promote Kwakwaka'wakw culture through his practice and the knowledge gained from his mentor. He also apprenticed under master carver Wayne Alfred. Speck has a tremendous love and respect for his culture and aspires to keep old traditions alive while allowing his contemporary style to emerge.

Speck has assisted in the creation of many large-scale totem poles over the years. He worked on the Pat Alfred Memorial pole in 2010, and in 2012 he was selected by Rande Cook to apprentice on a totem pole that was later installed in Holland. In 2017, he contextualized Beau Dick's presentation at Documenta 14 in Greece and Germany through a re-telling of the Undersea Kingdom story.

Selected Exhibitions

- 2022** Land Back, Contemporary Native Art Biennial (BACA) - 6th edition, La Guilde, Montréal, QC
- 2020** Winterfest: An Exhibition of Arts and Crafts, Aspen Art Museum, Aspen, CO
Image Power: Institutional Critique Today, Frans Hals Museum, Haarlem, NL
Independent Art Fair, Fazakas Gallery booth, Spring Studios, New York, NY
- 2019** Early Works II, Tanúyap Project Space, Fazakas Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Devoured by Consumerism, White Columns, New York, NY; Remail Modern, Saskatoon, SK
- 2018** NADA New York, Fazakas Gallery Booth, Skylight Clarkson, New York, NY
- 2016** Divergent Convergence, Fazakas Gallery, Vancouver, BC
- 2014** Art Toronto, Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, ON
Inappropriate, Fazakas Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Claiming Space, Museum of Anthropology, Vancouver, BC
- 2013** Story, Fazakas Gallery, Vancouver, BC
RezErect: Native Erotica, Bill Reid Gallery, Vancouver, BC

Talks and Presentations

- 2017** Performer: Learning from Athens, documenta 14, Athens, GR and Kassel, DE

Awards

- 2020** BC Achievement Foundation Fulmer Award in First Nations Art
- 2015** YVR Art Foundation Youth Scholarship