Sqātsza7 Tmicw
Father Land

Bringing Home Ed Archie NoiseCat
August 2020 – February 2021
After a lifetime of living and practicing art in the United States, the SLCC is proud to celebrate Lil’wat artist Ed Archie NoiseCat on his father’s traditional territory.

Curated by SLCC’s Director of Culture, Kimberley Stanger, and Curator, Mixahtsaa? Alison Pascal, Sq’átsza? Tmicw—Father Land features art NoiseCat has crafted in a range of mediums including steel wall installations, cast bronze, wood carvings, glasswork and handcrafted jewellery.

About Ed Archie NoiseCat

Salish artist Ed Archie NoiseCat grew up in British Columbia’s remote, mountainous interior with his mother’s people, the Canim Lake Band of Shuswap Indians. He draws inspiration from his mother’s plateau culture, and from his father’s people, the Lil’wat.

Trained as a master printmaker at the prestigious Emily Carr College of Art & Design, NoiseCat’s vision was then distilled by experience as a fine art lithographer in New York and Boston before beginning his exploration as a contemporary artist of monumental sculpture, working in mixed multimedia including works in glass, wood, steel, silver and gold.

“My work is inspired by the stories that comprise my life. The people, tricksters, tragedies and triumphs of the Indigenous experience.”

—Ed Archie NoiseCat

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THUNDERWHORL

2019
Limited Edition, Kiln Cast Lead Crystal
16.75" Diameter
$10,000
Image - Wendy McEahern

ThunderWhorl depicts the great Thunderbird sitting on Frog, underneath a rainbow in a spindle whorl design. Thunderbird was said to reside on Black Tusk Mountain, a place where thunder sits. Frog is a storyteller and a great communicator to the people who tells us of things to come. Frog and Thunderbird remind us that it is important to live in harmony with your neighbours if you wish to experience the beauty in this world.

SEL’SELTN—Spindle Whorl (Squamish)
QAQLEQSTEN—Spinning Wool Instrument (Lil’wat)
The spindle whorl was used to spin animal and bast fibers into yarn for weaving, and was a vital tool for societies that place great value in their textiles. Spindle whorls were often offered as a gift to the weaver and their designs were a labour of love sometimes used to tell family stories. Designs blend together while spinning and it’s possible that this could indicate purification and might have signified the spindle whorl’s importance in transforming wool into wealth.
Like all of Ed’s cast pieces, Sun and Moon began as wood carvings. Ed enjoys the inspired process of creating wood carvings that can translate into cast glass art, the texture of the woodgrain is not lost in the final piece and lends to the depth of design. Sun was carved in Santa Fe and their rays are inspired by the Zia Pueblo sun symbol whose style of depicting sun rays is explored in this piece. Moon was created as a partner to Sun.

**SUN – LIFE, ENERGY & KNOWLEDGE**
The Sun is a symbol of creation and life’s energy. In some stories the Sun is a person whom people seek out looking for assistance and his knowledge of the world. In many coastal myths, the sun is a metaphor for enlightenment and knowledge.

**MOON – TIMEKEEPER, GUIDANCE & INFLUENCE**
The Moon is a marker of time and a feminine power or influence over nature. The Moon has the ability to change our moods and thoughts and controls the tides which affect our food cycle. Full moons are credited with providing direction, vision and guidance.
Wolves of the Sea is another name for the orca, killer whale. This image was originally designed for a button blanket that was danced by Ed Archie NoiseCat at the dedication of his public art installation “Through the eyes of Little Crow (Taoyateduta)” in Minnihan Park, Minneapolis 1995.

Ed says “I simply wanted to honour a chief that had not received any recognition after a violent end to his life after the Dakota uprising in 1862.”

The blanket design depicts a red Wolf with a blue Whale Fin in a spindle whorl motif. In this design, Ed was exploring contrast of colour, light and movement. This image first became a limited edition print and then was made into a fused glass piece.

NoiseCat’s fused, or kiln-formed, glass pieces take his graphic print designs to a whole new level of color and character. Bullseye handcrafted glass sheets are cut by water-jet into myriad puzzle-like pieces. Meticulously assembled by hand and sandwiched between clear sheets, they are then heated in a kiln where the glasses soften and fuse together.

Fusing art glass almost always results in the formation of some air bubbles between sheets. And handcrafted sheets may have variations in color between sheets, even with Bullseye’s highly controlled mix. These inconsistencies contribute to the character and beauty of finished glasswork and must not be considered flaws.
THUNDERBIRD
2019
Limited Edition, Fused Glass
16.5” Diameter, x 0.3” D
$5,500
Image - Wendy McEahern

THUNDERBIRD
Thunderbird is a mythological animal that has supernatural ability to cause thunder and lightning when required to impose law and order. Thunderbird is considered a grandfather figure who cares for the people. He sends gifts to the people in their time of need and to ensure people follow protocols.

In the Squamish Nation legend, Thunderbird is said to roost on top of Black Tusk Mountain in the territory now known as Whistler. He was said to be responsible for creating a devastating landslide that buried the nearby village of Spo7ez when he heard that villagers were feuding.
**BRINGING THE LIGHT**

2019  
Limited Edition, Fused Glass  
16.5" Diameter x 0.3"W  
$5,500  
Image - Wendy McEahern

In this piece Ed plays with contrast of light and dark through his portrait of Kumugwe and Raven, juxtaposing them in a spiraling cycle of movement that is the balance of life.

*Bringing the Light* is based on the mythology of Kumugwe, a powerful being of the land beneath the sea who is associated with extraordinary wealth, and is revered by the Kwakwaka’wakw and Nuxalk Nations.

Kumugwe lives with his wife in an undersea palace made of copper planks guarded by an assortment of sea creatures. It is said that the posts of his house are living sea lions and its doors are like giant snapping mouths, and that within the walls of his palace is hidden great treasure. If a mortal could reach the sea god's palace alive they would return home as wealthy and powerful man, for Kumugwe can bestow not only wealth but also magical powers.

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**IN THE WAKE OF THE WHALE**

2019  
Limited Edition, Fused Glass  
19.25" W x 23.75" H x 0.3"D  
$5,500  
Image - Wendy McEahern

In the *Wake of the Whale* is a nod to the resident pod of orcas living in the Salish Sea. It incorporates both unique and Salish artistic design features in its depiction of a killer whale (orca) swimming around, creating balance, both yin and yang, as the dorsal fin swims outside of the circle and an eddy swirls in the back to create a powerful flow behind the swimming whale.

Ed Archie NoiseCat warns: "We have a lot of work to do to stop the oil from coming into our shores, and into the rivers where the salmon run. The balance in the art represents the much-needed ecological balance in the Salish Sea.”

*In the Wake of the Whale* imagery was used in Ed’s Greenpeace banner in 2018, on exhibit at the Museum of Vancouver thru July 2020, as part of the Acts of Resistance exhibition that showcases the artwork of seven indigenous artist activists from the Pacific Northwest, whose designs flew from the Iron Workers Memorial bridge on July 3, 2018 to protest the Trans Mountain Expansion Pipeline project.
In Bear Mother Moon Mask, Ed pays homage to the strong women in his life. Continually inspired by their strength and resilience, he recognizes how fortunate he has been to have these fierce women warriors by his side.

In Lil’wat culture, the Bear symbolizes family and strength through motherhood and teachings. Mother Bears are fierce defenders of their children and are great protectors.

This mask was worn in an Angela DeMontigny Fashion Show. Internationally-acclaimed, Indigenous Canadian designer, Angela DeMontigny is known for custom made and ready-to-wear, all leather clothing collections, bold accessories and statement jewelry collections that have been sold in specialty boutiques and galleries throughout North America and Europe since 1995.
THE VANISHING RUN
2015
Limited Edition, Bronze, Glass, Steel
17”H x 64”L x 24”W floor
$40,000
Image - Nancy Smith, Lighteninghorse Photography

“Originally the table held twelve limited edition bronze salmon. There are only six remaining. Food for thought...”

SALMON
ABUNDANCE, PROSPERITY & DETERMINATION

Salmon is a symbol of abundance, wealth and prosperity because Salmon is the primary food source for Northwest Coastal people, representing the ability to provide for your family. Salmon are supernatural beings that give up their life to feed our people. We hold them in high esteem and honour their return every year. Out of respect, ceremonies are often held by the Northwest Coast people to celebrate the return of the Salmon to their traditional spawning grounds. Due to the current environmental and ecological situation, Coastal First Nations communities’ traditional way of life is deeply threatened.

The Vanishing Run was created at the American Institute of Indian Arts where Ed was the first artist in residence at their foundry when it opened in 2015. Ed wanted to do something substantial for the opening, but with only a 30 day residence, he had to get creative. Ed had carved a set of salmon for a limited edition cast glass piece called Confluence, and decided to use the mold to craft thirteen wax casts of these Salmon. He then hollowed out each wax piece removing the spaces in between the ribs. The Salmon were cast in bronze and then a steel table was designed for them to swim on. The table was filled with piece of broken orange glass that represent mine tailings that were dumped into the Animas River in 2015.

THE POWER AND THE GLORY
2020
Bronze, Lead Crystal & Purple Heart
24”H  Wing Span 18”
$22,000

The place where thunder sits is the perfect metaphor for Ed NoiseCat’s homecoming exhibition, and this piece pays homage to this territory where Thunderbird watched over the people as he roosted on Black Tusk Mountain. In this piece, Thunderbird is sitting on top of a lightning bolt high up in the sky, a place of reverence.

Ed “This story is the inspiration behind ‘The Power and the Glory’—For the L’íl’wat, Black Tusk Mountain is called Q’elqámtensa ti Skenknápa, a place where the thunder rests. In a village along a river called Qwalimak lived the Mosquitoes (spirit warriors) and a little ways away lived Silas (Thunder). One day, when the weather was hot, the Mosquito Chief sent his warriors to the earth in search of food. The Mosquitoes encountered people and learned that drinking the people’s blood satisfied their hunger. They immediately flew back home to tell their Chief. “Fill up the cedar root coiled basket and get some hot rocks from the fire,” they were told. Thunder heard that his neighbours were living the high life, and asked the first Mosquito, “Where did you find this blood that you folks eat?” The Mosquito wanted to keep the source a secret and mislead Thunder. He replied, “We suck it from the tree tops.” So Thunder shot at the trees with a bolt of lightning. No blood came out, only a little bit of smoke. Thunder then approached the second Mosquito and asked, “Where did you get this blood that you boil in your baskets?” “We suck it from the rocks and stones.” Thunder let out a big lightning bolt, but still no blood. This is why Mosquitoes still feast on human blood and why Thunder strikes trees, rocks and stones with its lightning bolts.
STEEL SILHOUETTES

Salmon King depicts Bear and Salmon with Bentwood Box. Bear is the protector of the Forest who is holding our most precious resource on the Pacific Northwest coast, the Salmon. Salmon is the primary food source for coastal Indigenous peoples and is considered a symbol of perseverance, wealth and providing for your family. Once Salmon was also a symbol of abundance because they were so plentiful, however we can no longer consider this true. In recent years, Salmon runs have been severely depleted due to changes in our environment, pollution and over fishing.

Salmon King is a reminder how important our precious resources are—the forest, the water and our animal kingdom. The bentwood box is a symbol of things we cherish in this life.

SHAPE SHIFTER
2016
Steel, Hand-painted
36”H x 36”W
$5,400
Image - Ed Archie NoiseCat

Shape Shifter features three characters that speak about the connection between the supernatural world and our natural world. Supernatural Sisiutl is a double-headed Sea Serpent depicted at the bottom and represents the warriors’ protection spirit. Through the two wolves of his double head, Sisiutl is speaking to Frog which is depicted by the connecting tongues. Frog is a communicator between species and shares the information he receives from the spirit world with animals of the natural world. Frog advises us of things to come.

SALMON KING
2016
Steel, Hand-painted
32”H x 48”H
$5,400

SHAPE SHIFTER
2016
Steel, Hand-painted
36”H x 36”W
$5,400
Image - Ed Archie NoiseCat
THE OPPOSITE OF TRADITION
When Ed Archie NoiseCat began his journey as an artist in 1981, he did not have access to receive the traditional cultural teachings that would have been in place prior to colonization. Typically craftsmanship skills were passed down through generations in a mentor and apprentice system. Through a poetic mishap, Ed found himself at Emily Carr Collage of Art and Design, and since then has never looked back. Claiming his spot as an internationally renowned Indigenous Artist working in multi-disciplinary art forms, Ed continues to push the boundaries to define what contemporary First Nations art is. Today many aspiring Indigenous artists take the same long road back around to discovering their cultural influencers, fortifying strength to ground themselves in their own journey into artistic heritage. Ed Archie NoiseCat is a leader in this respect.

THE PROCESS
Always a true artist first, Ed Archie NoiseCat is most enthralled with the artistic processes involved in birthing an art piece. Ed comes alive when he discusses the techniques that drive his artistic expression through a diverse medium platform. A master at printmaking, glass casting, glass fusing, metal casting and woodcarving, Ed’s passion is ultimately in the technical process to make his visions come to life.

SALMON RUN BRACELET
Cast Sterling Silver
15 links, length is 7.25 “L, 1.75” wide
$3500
Included are lab-created saphires, emeralds, garnets, etc. Ask for quote for natural stones.
Image - Hilary Wallace Brelsford

SALMON ABUNDANCE, PROSPERITY & DETERMINATION
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JEWELLERY

STORYTELLING BRACELET
Cast Sterling Silver
14 links, length is 7.5, 7/8” wide
$3500
Image - Hilary Wallace Brelsford

FROG
SPRINGTIME, CLEANSING & REBIRTH
Frogs start out living in water and later move to land, so for this reason Frog symbolizes the ability of adaptation, change and transformation. Their springtime songs are a sign for our people to put away the winter activities and prepare for a new season.

Ed NoiseCat wearing his signature salmon bracelet and bear ring, 2019.
Cast Sterling Silver
Ordered to size
$700

**BEAR**
STRENGTH, & TEACHER

The Bear symbolizes family and strength. Considered a protector of our forests, we look to the Bear to show us how to fish and pick berries in our territory. details below.

**MOUNTAIN LION**
STELTH & TANACITY

An elusive creature of our forests whom we appreciate for their strength and tenacity. We look to the mountain Lion to show us how to be stealth hunters.

**EAGLE**
VISION, HONOUR & RESPECT

The Eagle is a spiritual messenger for the people as he brings our prayers up to the Creator. They are an inspiration for our people and appreciated for their ability to see the big picture on the horizon as well as focus on small details below.

**RAVEN**
KNOWLEDGE, CREATIVITY & HUMOUR

Raven is a symbol of knowledge and creativity. Known as a catalyst for change and often depicted as a trickster in many stories teaching us life lessons.

The Raven can also be ordered with coral, onyx or pearl in the beak for an additional $135.

**THUNDERBIRD**
LAW & PROTOCOL

The Thunderbird has supernatural ability to cause thunder and lightning and is considered a grandfather figure who cares for the people.

**WOLF**
LEADERSHIP

Wolf is a masculine symbol of leadership and intelligence. He is a leader of the people and shows us strength in relationships and the importance of strong family values. Wolf shows intense loyalty with a balance of independence.

**TOTEM RINGS**
Spo7ez Cultural Centre and Community Society is a registered Canadian charity and the first centre of its kind in Canada. The Squamish and Lil’wat Nations came together to celebrate and share our cultures with the world while creating meaningful employment opportunities for members of both nations. By sharing where we are from and where we are going, our visitors acquire a greater understanding of our Nations and the shared territories that Whistler resides upon.

Photo credit - Julian Brave NoiseCat