

## THE FRONT

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### BEAU DICK / WALAS GWA'YAM

23 November 1955 – 27 March 2017



Dzunukwa Mask, 2007  
red cedar, pigment, horse hair  
133 x 65 x 40 cm  
Audain Art Museum Collection  
Gift of Michael Audain and Yoshiko Karasawa  
2015.017

My style is sometimes referred to as “Potlatch Style” as it comes from a tradition of ceremony which requires many masks to be made in a short period of time. It takes many years of practice and an understanding of balance in order to create a work that appears [*sic*] finished in a natural and instinctive manner, without seeming overthought.

I've been very fortunate on my path that I've spent time with some of the great masters who have been recognized not just in our native world but in what we describe as the white world ... They made an impact and served as a beacon of inspiration for us younger guys and heroes that became famous. Those people were inspirations for us. We wanted to be like them. – Beau Dick (Artist's statement, courtesy of Fazakas Gallery, Vancouver)

**W**HEN I OPENED my e-mail and saw the image of Beau's DZUNUKWA mask, it was impossible not to feel emotions. I could write about the meaning behind his DZUNUKWA, but I'd rather write about my brother and his creativity. Beau spoke about and shared his masks with the world, and the world listened and responded with awe. To be in the presence of his genius was an experience; to stand before his work has had a profound impact on us all. He was able to connect with a powerful force and bring to life the supernatural in all he did. Beau will be forever missed and remembered for his powerful contribution to the world.

I think not that you are resting; I believe you are carrying on with what you did here, with that much more clarity, consciousness and that much more fervour, passion and drive in some other dimension that here we can only wonder about.

*Francis Dick, Victoria*