

THE FRONT

SANFORD WILLIAMS

Flight Through the Four Winds, 2017. Painting, 21 x 26 inches (53 cm x 66 cm).
Photograph courtesy of the artist.

Y*uquot* is the Nuu-chah-nulth word for “Where winds blow in all directions.” Located on the southern peninsula of Nootka Island, Yuquot is known for its extreme winds and ocean rains. Sanford Williams’s original work “Flight Through the Four Winds” is a design that shows an eagle demonstrating its strength as it flies through the Yuquot winds. Each profile represents the four cardinal directions, intertwined and erratically combined.

Born and raised on the west coast of Vancouver Island in the remote village of Yuquot, Sanford Williams was inspired by his relatives, notably his uncle – the late Chief Dominic Andrew. Sanford Williams has made it his life’s work creating art that echoes the past of the First Nations folk of British Columbia.

After surviving residential school, Sanford Williams graduated in 1985; he then attended the Gitanmaax School of Northwest Coast Indian Art at Ksan in Old Hazelton, BC. Since completing the course in 1988, Sanford Williams has worked independently as a Master Carver – every single day.

Throughout the years Sanford Williams has proudly participated in many events and has donated pieces to many noteworthy organizations, including the Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art, Vancouver BC; Sanyi International Woodcarving Art Festival, Taiwan; the Canucks for Kids Fund, Vancouver BC; Wilp Si’Satxw Healing Centre, Kitwanga BC; Gitxsan Wet’suwet’en Tribal Council for the Land Claim, Kitwanga BC; and Royal BC Museum, Victoria BC.

Once described as “the real deal,” Sanford Williams still carves authentic pieces from his remote, beachfront shop at Yuquot during the summer, using handmade materials. He is also accessible from his offseason home in Hope, BC. Though his art is found in dozens of galleries around British Columbia, Sanford Williams is a people’s artist, and loves meeting the public to carve custom-made pieces for them. His work and contact information is available at <https://www.sanfordwilliams.com>.