

Joseph Jacobs

Iroquois Stone Carver, Bear Clan, Cayuga Tribe

In only twenty years, Joseph Jacobs has forged a name for himself as a dedicated and gifted sculptor. Jacobs has been awarded the Order of Canada for his incredible 5 piece sculpture that graces the Members Entrance in the House of Commons. Internationally lauded as Canada's premier sculptor Joseph Jacobs is simply preserving his Nation's oral tradition in stone. Taking key elements and creating a flowing piece is Jacob's mark of excellence.

Joseph Jacobs is translating an oral tradition and recreating the images of Iroquois legends in the soapstone known as steatite. Born in 1934, the self-taught carver has spent most of his adult life as a labourer. An industrial accident prevented his return to manual labour and in 1974, Joseph started carving with home-made tools. His compositions beg oral interpretations and this is his contribution to the culture of his people.

Joseph Jacobs' commission for the House of Commons in Ottawa was completed in 1985. The 12' X 4' limestone, five panel relief was installed in the members' entrance in 1986.

"I want to give permanence in stone to the legends of my people."

Joseph J a c o b s

(1934 - 2015), Six Nations Reserve, Brantford, Ontario

First Nations Affiliation: Cayuga

Self-taught stone and ivory sculptor Joe Jacobs began carving while recovering from an operation, and less than one year later, had created over forty works, often interpreting Iroquois legends and myths in both abstract and representational forms. In 1983, Jacobs was honoured with a Doctorate of Law degree from Trent University.

RECENT EXHIBITIONS

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| 2020 | Group exhibition: Beckett Fine Art, Hamilton, Ontario |
| 2009 | Group exhibition: Beckett Fine Art, Toronto, Ontario |
| 2005 | Solo exhibition: Beckett Fine Art, Toronto, Ontario |
| 1993 | <i>Spirit Visions.</i>
Kinsman Robinson Galleries, Toronto, Ontario |
| 1992 | <i>Two Native Masters.</i>
Beckett Gallery, Hamilton, Ontario
<i>Legends in Stone.</i>
Kinsman Robinson Galleries, Toronto, Ontario |
| 1989 | <i>In the Shadow of the Sun</i> (travelling) |
| 1988-91 | <i>Crossing the Circle: Indian and Inuit Art from Canada</i> (travelling) |

Beckett Fine Art Ltd. 196 Locke St. South, Hamilton, ON., Canada, L8P 4B4, Established 1966

Tel: (416) 922-5582 Email: info@beckettfineart.com www.beckettfineart.com

BECKETT FINE ART LTD.

- 1983-85 *Contemporary Indian and Inuit Art of Canada.*
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Ottawa, Ontario (travelling)
- 1983 Canada House Cultural Gallery, London, England
Contemporary Indian Art at Rideau Hall.
Ottawa, Ontario
- 1982 *Renewal, Masterworks of Contemporary Indian Art from the Canadian Museum of Civilization.*
Thunder Bay Art Gallery, Thunder Bay, Ontario
Nancy Poole Studios, Toronto, Ontario
- 1980 Ontario Science Centre, Toronto, Ontario
Indian Art '80.
Woodland Cultural Centre, Brantford, Ontario
Contemporary Art of Iroquoia, MacDonald Gallery, Toronto, Ontario
- 1979 *Indian Art '79.*
Woodland Cultural Centre, Brantford, Ontario
Whetung Gallery, Curve Lake, Ontario
Nancy Poole Studios, Toronto, Ontario
- 1976-87 *Indian Art.*
Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Ontario

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Canadian Museum of Civilization, Hull, Ontario
Portland Holdings Inc, Burlington, Ontario
Department of External Affairs, Ottawa, Ontario
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Ottawa, Ontario
Joseph Brant Museum, Burlington, Ontario
Library Collection, Lanark, Ontario
McMichael Canadian Art Collection, Kleinburg, Ontario
New College Collection, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario
Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Ontario
Whetung Gallery Collection, Curve Lake, Ontario
Beckett Fine Art Ltd., Hamilton, Ontario

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Canadian Museum of Civilization, ed. *In the Shadow of the Sun: Perspectives on Contemporary Native Art.* Hull, Québec: The Museum, 1993.

Crowther, Eric. "Joe Jacobs, sculptor." *Rock and Minerals* 12, no. 6 (1979): 4-6.

Edinborough, Arnold. "A country canvas." *Imperial Oil Review* 65, no. 2 (1990): 2-6.

Hanley, Carolyn T. "A new school of Iroquois sculpture." *American Indian Art Magazine* 15, no. 2 (Spring 1990): 48-57.

"Joe Jacobs." *The Native Perspective* 3, no. 2 (1978): 75.