



FIRST PEOPLES'
CULTURAL COUNCIL



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BC FERRIES, FIRST PEOPLES' CULTURAL COUNCIL AND MUSQUEAM NATION REVEAL COAST SALISH ARTWORK FOR THIRD SALISH CLASS VESSEL

VICTORIA – BC Ferries, the First Peoples' Cultural Council and Musqueam Nation revealed today the third of three Coast Salish artistic designs for BC Ferries' new Salish Class vessels. Musqueam Nation's Thomas Cannell designed the artwork that will adorn the Salish Raven. The artwork will also be displayed inside the vessel for customers to view along with a profile of the artist.

Coast Salish artist Thomas Cannell's design depicts the beauty of the powerful, intelligent raven. His bold vision of this majestic bird certainly engages his audience with a new style of Coast Salish art.

In 2015, the First Peoples' Cultural Council issued a call for artists and Coast Salish artists were invited to submit their portfolios for consideration. From 37 expressions of interest, a jury of artist peers and BC Ferries representatives identified a shortlist of nine artists who were invited to submit specific design concepts for the three Salish Class vessels. The jury reviewed the design concepts with attention to artistic excellence, Coast Salish artistic style, ability to express the vessel names through artwork, ability to provide digital images for fabrication and ability to meet the project timeline.

In addition to Cannell being selected as one of the three artists, Darlene Gait from Esquimalt Nation was selected to design the artwork for the Salish Orca. Her design was unveiled last spring. The other artistic design by John Marston from Stz'uminus First Nation for the Salish Eagle was revealed last fall.

The Salish Orca arrived in B.C. last month after a 50-day 10,440 nautical mile journey from Remontowa Shipbuilding S.A. in Gdansk, Poland. It will replace the Queen of Burnaby on the Comox – Powell River route this spring. The Salish Eagle and the Salish Raven will depart Poland in the coming weeks and will begin service to the Southern Gulf Islands later this year.

Under contract to the Province of British Columbia, BC Ferries is the service provider responsible for the delivery of safe, efficient and dependable ferry service along coastal British Columbia.

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Quotes, Artwork Rendering and Thomas Cannell Biography Attached.

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Quotes:

It's a great honour to have my own design crossing the Salish Sea to distant ancient villages the way my ancestors used to do, although much more frequently," said Thomas Cannell, Coast Salish artist. "I am grateful for the desire of British Columbians to showcase our rich cultural history so proudly, for visitors and residents of the Coast Salish territories. I thank BC Ferries for the opportunity to showcase my design so impressively on such a recognizable brand."

"Thomas' impressive and magnificent raven is a great addition to the trio of First Nations artwork pieces that adorn the Salish Class vessels," said Mike Corrigan, BC Ferries' President and CEO. "Throughout this project, we've had the privilege to work with three extremely talented artists and we are very impressed with the way the different designs reflect Coast Salish art."

"We want to congratulate Thomas Cannell for creating this stunning design for the Salish Raven," said Tracey Herbert, CEO of the First Peoples' Cultural Council. "This important project recognizes the artistic traditions of the people of the Salish Sea and provides an opportunity for all of us to learn more about Coast Salish people, including their history and living relationships with the land, sea and animals. We hold our hands up to BC Ferries for initiating a project that showcases Indigenous art and is an example of reconciliation in action."

Artwork Rendering, Media Conference Photos Attached Below

Salish Raven



Description

Coast Salish artist Thomas Cannell says, "Ravens have always been my favorite to draw and study, their strength lies in recognizing opportunity and I love the profuse beaks on these powerful intelligent birds. I have tried to capture this enormous sense of being within my design concept for Salish Raven."

Salish Raven





Musqueam Nation drummers Carl Point and Alec Dan drum at the beginning of the art reveal ceremony.



Musqueam Nation Councillor Howard Grant, artist Thomas Cannell and his son Calder, First Peoples' Cultural Council Board Chair Cynthia Callison and BC Ferries President & CEO Mike Corrigan stand next to the artist's rendering of the Salish Raven.

Biography – Thomas Cannell

Thomas Cannell is a Coast Salish artist born on Musqueam traditional territory in 1980. He has enthralled his entire life on the Musqueam Reserve surrounded by Vancouver, B.C. and has been involved in the time-honored artistic and cultural traditions of his ancestors.

Thomas still expressly studies and works alongside his mother, Coast Salish artist Susan Point. She has guided his talents as a carver and designer. Beginning his craft as a young carver more than a decade ago, he has now worked on dozens of international, large-scale public art works in many different mediums alongside his mother, his siblings, and on his own. Thomas has also produced a number of distinct limited edition prints. He engages his audience with a new style of Coast Salish art; *Harmony* and *Illume*, both tributes to the way uncomplicated Salish

elements are seen everywhere in natural life. In his public art pieces such as exemplar found within Terra Nova Park in Richmond, B.C., and two at Spirit Square in Deer Lake Park, Burnaby, B.C., his distinct style emerges uniquely to Thomas Cannell. Strong, straightforward contour lines create imagery new to Coast Salish style, by using universal contemporary notions.

Though Thomas has studied ancestral artworks from books, photographs, slides, and interviews in the Coast Salish arts archives and at museums, he's remained studious to the forever-evolving artwork of his mother Susan; as they've made the creative divergence together.

Always a keen student, Thomas enrolled at Pilchuck Glass School, Langara College, and Capilano University, studying many aspects of glass, art history, photography, and graphic design. He graduated from Capilano University, responding to his passion for the environment and his belief in the importance of eco-social tourism and sustainability within travel culture. In 2014, Thomas's notable role in the creative life of British Columbia was recognized with a British Columbia Creative Achievement Award for First Nations' Art.

Thomas enjoys the challenge and personal experience of every artistic medium that comes before him. Nevertheless, his principal curiosities remain working with natural materials, as he finds every element of Mother Earth's gifts desirable.