

Native Artist Committee

Dr. Delores Churchill is a Haida master weaver of baskets, hats, robes, and other regalia. Churchill learned these skills from her mother, Selina Peratrovich, a nationally recognized master weaver. Churchill is a leading artist and teacher of basketry and is a long-time instructor at the University of Alaska Southeast. Her work is exhibited in museums throughout the United States, Germany, and Canada, and she has completed apprenticeships and training in Haida, Tsimshian, Tlingit, Aleut, and Athabascan basketry as well as the study of Northwest Coast design and Chilkat weaving. Delores' contributions to perpetuating the knowledge of how to weave Northwest Coast basketry are considered so important that Sealaska Heritage in 2015 named its artist-in-residence space in her honor. She was awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters by the University of Alaska Southeast.

Dr. X'unei Lance Twitchell is a Tlingit and Haida artist and educator. He carries the Tlingit names X'unei and Du Aaní Kawdinook, and the Haida name K'eijáakw. He lives in Juneau with his wife and bilingual children and is from the Tlingit, Haida, and Yup'ik Native nations. He speaks and studies the Tlingit language and advocates for indigenous language revitalization. He is an Associate Professor of Alaska Native Languages at the University of Alaska Southeast and holds a Ph.D. in Hawaiian and Indigenous Culture and Language Revitalization from the Ka Haka 'Ula Ke 'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. He is also a multimedia Northwest Coast artist and a musician. Twitchell was appointed to the Native Artist Committee by University of Alaska Southeast.

Crystal Rose Demientieff Worl is a Tlingit Athabascan artist who was introduced at a young age to her traditional arts, practices, and storytelling. Crystal works with kiln-cast glass, printmaking, painting, and silversmithing. She also works with fish skin tanning, seal gut-skin sewing, and fur skin sewing. Crystal studies traditional Tlingit formline design and Athabascan beadwork. She holds a bachelor's of fine arts in jewelry metal smithing and an associate's of fine art in moving images from the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA). Crystal and her brother Rico are the co-owners of Trickster Company, which promotes innovative indigenous design focused on the Northwest Coast art and exploration of themes and issues in Native culture. Worl was appointed to the Native Artist Committee by IAIA.

Preston Singletary is a Tlingit glass artist who has become internationally celebrated for his innovative creations, which employ a medium not known in pre-contact times. He learned about his Tlingit heritage from his great-grandmother, who was from Sitka. He has worked with glass since 1982 and initially focused on mastering the techniques of the European tradition before beginning to integrate this skill with images and ideas from his culture. Since then he has become known worldwide for his innovative creations, which are an expression of the strength of contemporary Native culture. Singletary's artworks are represented in

museum collections, including the British Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

John C. Hudson III is a Northwest Coast Tsimshian artist and teacher from Metlakatla, Alaska. Over thirty years ago, John began immersing himself in all forms of traditional art with the guidance of his father Jack Hudson. John specializes in Northwest Coast formline and sculpture and handcrafts his own traditional tools. Over the past several years, John has worked with the Smithsonian through several residencies and teaching engagements. In addition, John is a full-time Northwest Coast Native art teacher with the Annette Island School District where he passes on his love and knowledge of the art to middle and high school students. Most recently, John has also worked as a part-time adjunct professor for the University of Alaska, Southeast. His work is featured in several museums and is sold in galleries around the world.

Honorary Committee Members

Sealaska Heritage gratefully acknowledges the following artists who comprised our inaugural Native Artist Committee. Their work set the stage for SHI's art programming, which has become recognized throughout the state and nation:

Steve Brown
Delores Churchill
Nicholas Galanin
Nathan Jackson
Da-ka-xeen Mehner

