

ABOUT ROBERT DAVIDSON

Robert Davidson is one of Canada's most respected and honoured contemporary artists, and a leading figure in the renaissance of Haida art and culture. He was invited by the McCord Museum to guide the selection of artworks presented in **Haida: Life. Spirit. Art.**



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Davidson has earned an international reputation as a carver, printmaker, painter and jeweller. His work is found in major cultural institutions such as the Vancouver Art Gallery, the National Gallery of Canada and the Canadian Museum of Civilization.

Davidson was honoured in 2010 with a Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts, and the prestigious Audain Prize for his lifetime achievement as a B.C. visual artist. He is also a recipient of the Order of Canada, the Order of B.C. and a National Aboriginal Achievement Award.

Davidson was born in 1946 in Hydaburg, a small community in southeast Alaska, but grew up in the fishing village of Massett, B.C., on the northern coast of Haida Gwaii.

He began carving at age 13, taught by his father and uncle. He worked briefly in the studio of acclaimed artist Bill Reid and studied at the Vancouver School of Art. In 1969 he earned enduring fame for carving and raising the first totem pole to be erected on Haida Gwaii in 90 years.

Davidson's Haida name is Guud San Glans/Eagle of The Dawn.



Photo: Steve Darby

Haida is not the first exhibition in which Robert Davidson has displayed his works at the Museum. His first was an exhibition entitled **Robert Davidson: Eagle of the Dawn**. The exhibition traced the history of an artist who has consistently renewed and enriched a traditional art form with works of outstanding originality and exceptional technical perfection.

It was the first comprehensive survey of his works and was organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery with the assistance from The Canada Council. It was on display at the Museum of Civilization from December 13, 1993 to September 11, 1994.