

The Haida

of Canada's
Northwest Coast

at the Pitt Rivers Museum

Did you know?

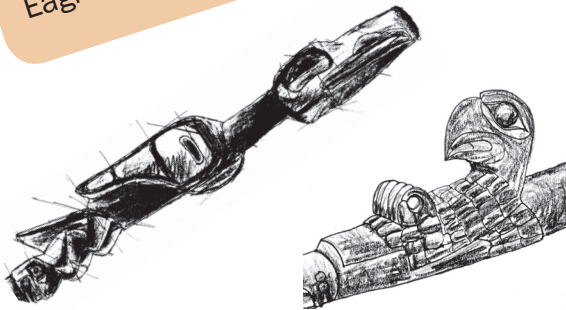
Haida Gwaii

The Haida come from a group of islands off the North West Coast of Canada. On maps they are often called the Queen Charlotte islands, the Haida have always called them Haida Gwaii.



Eagles and Ravens

There are two Haida clans, or moieties, the Eagles and the Ravens. Haida people inherit their clan from their mother. An Eagle can only marry a Raven, and a Raven can only marry an Eagle.

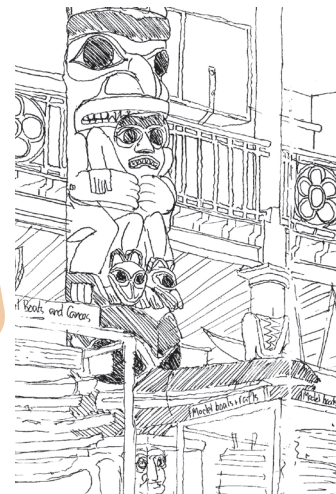


Totem poles

Totem poles should really be called house poles, or crest poles. They tell stories of the clan, family, and the individual. This makes them very personal.

Haida art

Haida art looks very abstract, but follows clear lines and rules, and usually shows animal designs. The individual artist decides how symbolic or realistic they want to be. Sometimes it is possible to see realistic silhouettes of animals, while at other times the image has been rearranged to fit the space available. Haida artists use a variety of media, but most commonly work in wood, either through painting, carving, or a mixture of the two.



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Teachers' Info

Students' Info

Extra Info

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Map of the Pitt Rivers Museum

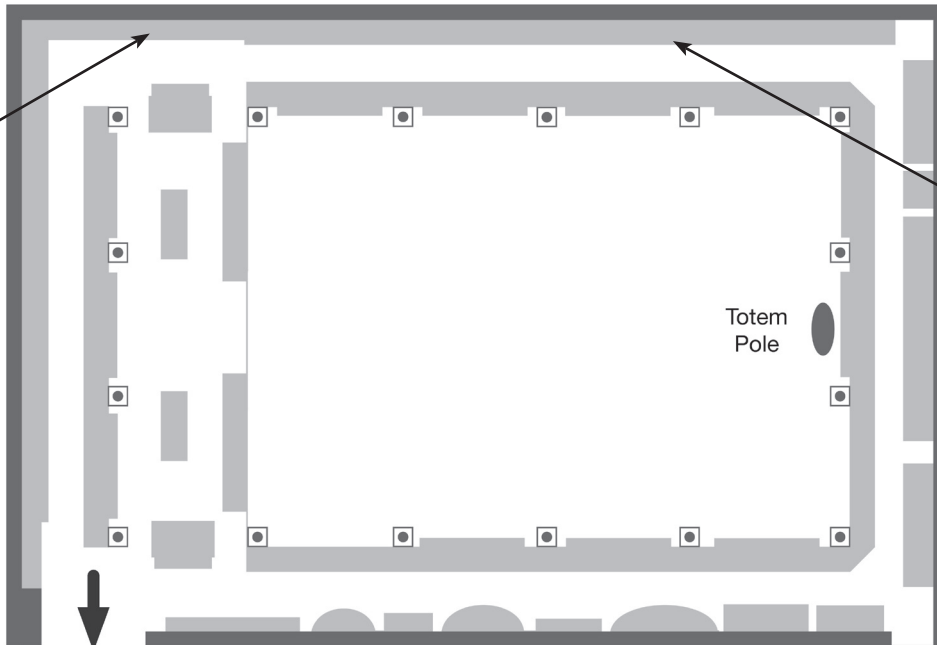
There are over 100 Haida objects on display at the Pitt Rivers Museum. This map shows where you could go to find some of them.



Status



Body Arts



Lower Gallery (first floor)



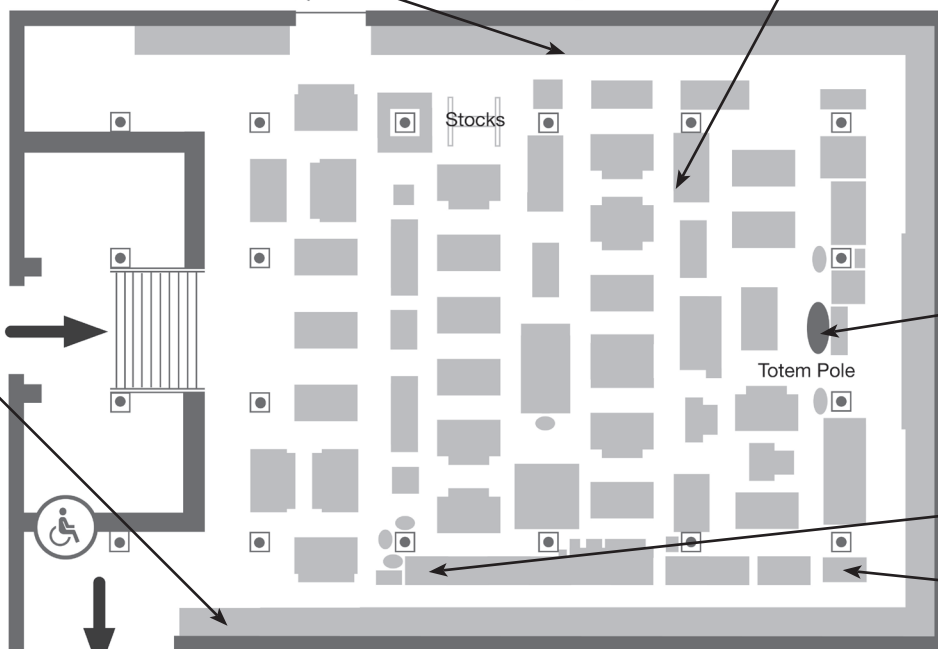
Textiles



Ivory



Masks



Court (ground floor)

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Example sketchbook



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Haida art today

Websites for inspiration



These websites show the work of just a few contemporary Haida artists and illustrate the vibrancy of modern Haida culture. This list was compiled in 2009 and is illustrative rather than comprehensive. An internet search will reveal many more sites featuring a range of Haida art.

www.haidanation.ca/

This website tells the story of the Council of the Haida Nation and the Haida people. It is a good general site to learn about historical and contemporary Haida culture.

www.rockingraven.com/

Michael Nicoll Yaghulaanas is a Haida artist working in Haida manga style.

www.qcislands.net/guujaaw/

Guujaaw is a Haida artist and drummer/singer, and currently (2009) President of the Council of the Haida Nation.

www.robertdavidson.ca/

Robert Davidson is considered one of the masters of Haida art.

www.virtualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/Haida/

Haida Spirits of the Sea; contemporary examples of Haida culture.

<http://aprilwhite.com/home.htm>

April White is a painter who uses rich vibrant colours in her art.

www.nativeonline.com/don_yeomans.htm

Don Yeomans is one of the most respected and renowned Northwest Coast Native artists.

www.virtualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/Billreidpole/

Totem Poles (or crest poles) are the best known symbols of Haida culture. The 'Respect for Bill Reid' Pole was created by several Haida carvers to honour the memory of Bill Reid, one of the most beloved and popular Haida artists.

www3.telus.net/kitsilan/

Jay Simeon is an up and coming Haida artist who has great reverence for the traditions and discipline of Haida art.

www.spiritwrestler.com/exhibitions/c_white_1.html

Christian White and his apprentices are Haida artists who work in argillite, wood, silver and gold. One of Christian's great accomplishments was the construction of a contemporary Haida longhouse in Old Massett, Haida Gwaii.