



Today we are pleased to present Coast Salish carver John Marston and to tell you about his solo show *The Sky Opened: Salish Origins* at the Inuit Gallery of Vancouver, June 2013.

We thank photographer Ashley Marston and Melanie Zavediuk, owner and director of the Inuit Gallery, for their contribution of photographs.

### Meet John Marston (Qap'u'luq)

Born in 1978 in Ladysmith, BC to carvers David and Jane Marston, John picked up a carving knife at the age of eight. His parents and carver Simon Charlie were his first teachers.



In his twenties, John immersed himself in carving at the Thunderbird Park of the Royal British Columbia Museum in Victoria. He became its resident carver in the fifth year of his stay. John has since become a master of subtlety and details, and his projects are ambitious. His pride for precise, flawless and often deep carving has earned him a worldwide reputation.



The printed catalogue is available online for preview and purchase at <http://www.inuit.com>

*The Sky Opened: Salish Origins* exhibition was one of John's most ambitious projects, "the high point of his intensive research into Coast Salish mythology to date, in particular their story of Creation" said Melanie of the Inuit Gallery.

*"In preparation for this show, the artist has researched and collected versions of the legend that tells of the beginning of time from elders in order to represent details as closely as possible to the Coast Salish oral traditions. The result was an astonishing collection of unique works that reference the opening of the sky and the advent of the first people on Salish territory. With each thoughtfully and exquisitely carved mask, rattle, paddle, bentwood box and feast dish, John brought the details of the legend to life"* Melanie continued in her introduction. See John's works of art under Exhibition Archives at <http://www.inuit.com>



### Birds Eye Bowl

2.5" x 7" x 5"  
Birds eye yellow cedar, operculum,  
abalone and paint



We are proud to have  
***Birds Eye Bowl***  
and  
***Bird Transformation Rattle***  
in the Salish Weave Collection.

*“While creating this bowl I imagined seeing through the eyes of my ancestors who walked this land thousands of years ago. The creation story speaks of how Syalutsa saw the land for the first time when he first opened his eyes, and our history began. The form of the bowl when viewed from above or below is an eye.*”



*This particular eye design is based on ancient carvings. This piece is also very literal in meaning as it is carved from Birds Eye Yellow Cedar.”*

John Marston




### Bird Transformation Rattle

11.75" x 7" x 4.5" at base  
Yellow cedar, cedar root, cedar bark,  
abalone and paint

Transformation of people into or from animals is the subject of many Coast Salish stories. From time immemorial, such stories convey the importance of the relationships between Humans and non-Humans. Through them Coast Salish People learned of their place in the world and their kinship with animals.

This rattle depicts Human and Thunderbird and is another work of art resulting from John’s research on Salish Origins.

