

Our Resources

Website

- The Bill Reid Centre website (www.sfu.ca/brc) is the primary point of access between the Centre and its users. It provides information about the Centre, its objectives, collections and projects. Currently, the most notable feature of the site is the Virtual Village Project, which focuses on documenting and researching the monumental art and architecture of First Nations villages along the northwest coast.

Digital Collection

- The Bill Reid Centre is currently working with Simon Fraser University Library to make more of its collection accessible online. To do this, the Centre is using CONTENTdm, which is a digital collection management software. Users can now browse or search for specific items in the collection and click on keywords to find related images.

Social Media

- We are utilizing Facebook and YouTube to create a public profile that will enable the Centre to share information and content. These portals act as a point of interaction with First Nations communities, scholars and the general public. You can connect with us through these channels by visiting our website.
- Other assets include the Ralph Maud Northwest Coast First Nations Library (approximately 500 volumes), and the Adelaide de Menil Collection of photographs taken in Central and Northern Coastal villages during the summers of 1966-1968 (approximately 9,500 images).

Your Support

There are many ways in which interested parties can participate in and support the Bill Reid Centre. Our databases are available for academic, artistic, village, clan, and family research. We would also appreciate the opportunity to view any personal or family collections of photographs and documents pertaining to life on the Northwest Coast. These can be digitized, returned and fully credited to the owners in a matter of days. Of course, moral, financial, in-kind and expert support for the Centre are always gratefully accepted.

**639 Hornby Street
Vancouver B.C. V6C 2G3
George MacDonald, Director
Bus: 604-682-4179
Fax: 604-682-3310
email: brctr@sfu.ca**



Photo: effordphotography.com

“an outstanding treasury for study...”

“a valuable study centre and a vibrant platform for outstanding contemporary work...”

“carries on Bill Reid’s dream...”

“A rich collection of First Nations visual material...”

Cover logo: Bill Reid, Haida Wolf – *Godji*, 1979. Bill Reid Foundation Collection #45. Photo: Kenji Nagai.

Bill Reid Centre

**for Northwest Coast Art Studies
at Simon Fraser University**



**Preserving the Past,
Inspiring the Future**

www.sfu.ca/brc

The Challenge

The stunning monumental art of the Northwest Coast has captivated peoples' imaginations since it was first recorded by early explorers, and it has been an integral part of the lives of the First Nations of the Coast for millennia.

Most of this traditional art and architecture has been made out of cedar, which easily rots in the temperate rainforest climate of the coast. Therefore, until recently, few physical remnants of the traditional cultures survived other than in museums.

As popular as this art form has recently become, and despite its global recognition, nowhere has there been an attempt to assemble a visual record of these historically significant communities and their art.

Founding Partners

The Bill Reid Centre for Northwest Coast Art Studies was established jointly by the Bill Reid Foundation and the Senate of Simon Fraser University in 2005. The Centre is located in downtown Vancouver in the Bill Reid Gallery at 639 Hornby Street near SFU's Harbour Centre Campus. It is devoted to the study of Northwest Coast Art as the visual embodiment of a broad cultural development since the end of the last Ice Age.



Lax Kwa'alaams house front, recreated by Lyle Wilson. Photo: B. Herem, 2003.

Objectives

- Establish a globally-accessible learning centre for Northwest Coast art.
- Promote an appreciation and understanding of the art, culture and history of Northwest Coast First Nations.
- Encourage scholarly research on Northwest Coast First Nations art.
- Create a dialogue with First Nations people, students, scholars, artists and others to explore this unique artistic tradition.
- Inspire the development of contemporary First Nations' artistic expression.

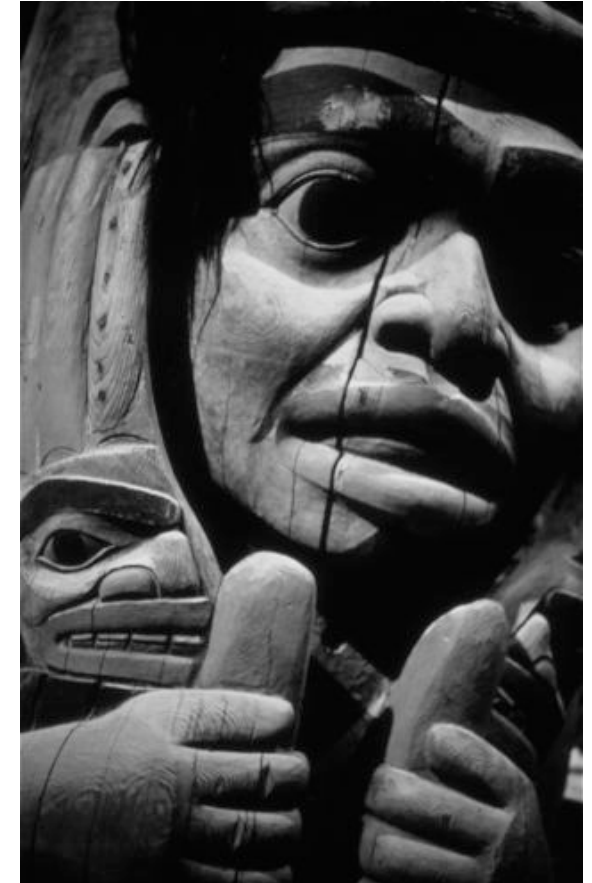
Methods

The historical record is being created through the use of early explorers' drawings, sketches and paintings, original photographs from the late 19th century onward, as well as archival documents.

The Centre is gathering and sorting visual material into First Nations linguistic groups and villages. The images are then identified and described according to content, artists, photographers and dates. This information is then compiled into an extensive digital database, which currently totals approximately 50,000 images.



Houses and Poles at Skidegate, Haida Gwaii. Photo: G.M. Dawson, 1878.



Strong Man Post at Klukwan, Alaska. Photo: B. Herem, 1994.