



Bill Reid
Foundation

Friday, May 7, 2010

For Immediate Release

Virtual Exhibition Celebrates One of Canada's Greatest Artists

On Saturday, May 8, 2010, the Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art will launch *The Raven's Call*, a new website dedicated to the life and work of Bill Reid, one of Canada's greatest artists. The site, available in English and French, is the largest, most comprehensive and authoritative site about Bill Reid on the web.

The virtual exhibition features a gallery of Reid's works with stunning new photography of the Bill Reid Foundation Collection by Kenji Nagai and photos from more than 50 partner institutions, private collections and individuals. Original essays focusing on Reid's biography and exploration of identity through Haida art were contributed by Dr. Martine Reid, curator of the project and author of the forthcoming *Bill Reid: Catalogue Raisonné*.

The Raven's Call site, which will appeal to the casual visitor, student, and serious scholar alike, includes multimedia clips from Reid's contemporaries and Reid himself, and full lesson plans for teachers and students to explore the concept of identity through the lens of the Haida crest system.

A popular component of the website is sure to be Mike Nicoll Yahgulanaas' animation of a short story, entitled *The Raven's Call* by Bill Reid, which both Reid and Yahgulanaas left open-ended. Visitors can get involved by creating their own story endings and uploading them to the site for everyone to view.

Bill Reid's career spanned over 50 years until his death from Parkinson's disease in 1998. The Bill Reid Foundation Collection has been on exhibit at the Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art in Vancouver since its opening in 2008. Now virtual visitors the world over can enjoy this online showcase along with new content that provides context to Reid's remarkable creative journey.

The project was developed by the Bill Reid Foundation and 7th Floor Media, in partnership with the Virtual Museum of Canada (VMC) at virtualmuseum.ca, an initiative of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

Visit the site at www.theravenscall.ca, www.virtualmuseum.ca, or www.billreidgallery.ca.

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