



TIM ALFRED

(B. 1967; Alert Bay, BC)

Tim Alfred was born in Alert Bay, BC and moved to the village of Fort Rupert in 1985. His family tree includes the banks of Kwakiutl (Fort Rupert), Namgis (Alert Bay), Mumtagila (Etsekin and area), Mamaleleqala (Village Island), and Tlowitsis (Turnour Island). At a memorial potlatch for his brother in 1989, Tim's mother's family placed him in the family's Chief position at the Big House in Alert Bay where he received the name "Mus-cum-tsi", which symbolizes the four clans of the Kwakwaka'wakw Nation.

Tim started carving at the age of 20, learning predominantly from Stanley Hunt. Wayne Alfred, Beau Dick, and Calvin Hunt were also influences in his carving career. As a young artist he was able to learn how to create bentwood boxes, to plank from cedar trees, carve masks, paddles, model canoes, and make regalia for traditional use in the Big House. He has done charity work for memorial trophies and made donations to various fund-raising events in his community, including the reconstruction auction to benefit work for the Big House in Alert Bay. Alfred has had the opportunity to work on totem poles with Calvin Hunt, Mervin Child, and David Knox for the Kwakiutl Band Day Care Project in Fort Rupert. His work sells to many galleries and museums, including the Royal British Museum in Victoria, BC.