DARREN YELTON

Darren Yelton, born in North Vancouver, BC, in 1961, began carving at the age of thirteen under the guidance of his father and alongside his brothers, Jim and Tony. Early on, he demonstrated an innate talent and a deep connection to his heritage through his craft. After completing high school, Darren fully committed to carving, focusing exclusively on wood and studying under Marvin Dana Baker and his father, both highly respected members of the Squamish Indian Band. This mentorship not only refined his technical skills but also enriched his understanding of the cultural significance of his work.

In the early stages of his career, Darren joined the Thunderbird Park Carving program as a totem pole carver, a role that allowed him to explore traditional methods while contributing to the preservation of Indigenous art. This experience laid a strong foundation for his journey as an artist. By 1986, Darren embarked on a new chapter as a freelance artist, embracing the creative freedom to develop his distinctive style.

Darren's work is a testament to the vibrant storytelling traditions of the Coast Salish community. He draws inspiration from family crests and legends, incorporating these narratives into his carvings with remarkable precision and artistry. His unique style blends traditional West Coast themes with contemporary elements, characterized by refined simplicity, dimensional depth, and a subtle Northern influence.

Over the years, Darren has been influenced by many renowned artists, continually striving to push the boundaries of his craft. His dedication to excellence has made his pieces highly sought after by collectors worldwide, cementing his reputation as one of the leading artists in Northwest Coast Native art. Darren's carvings not only celebrate Indigenous culture but also serve as enduring symbols of heritage, creativity, and the power of storytelling through art.