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Raven and Whale

Photograph © Royal BC Museum, BC Archives.

Chief Nakapankam, Mungo Martin, *Raven and Whale*, 1960. Watercolour on paper. RBCM14429



Chief Nakapankam, Mungo Martin, was born about 1881 in the Kwagu'ł village of Tsaxis (Fort Rupert) on the east coast of Vancouver Island. He was raised in the traditional culture of his people and was an expert carver and singer. In 1947, he was hired by the University of British Columbia Museum of Anthropology in Vancouver to restore and replicate totem poles in their collection. In 1952, when he was about 72 years old, he moved to Victoria on Vancouver Island to be Chief Carver on staff at the British Columbia Provincial Museum (now the Royal

BC Museum), where he created more than two dozen poles and built Wawadit'la, a version of a traditional Kwakwaka'wakw bighouse, in Thunderbird Park. For the opening of Wawadit'la in 1953, Martin gave the first legal potlatch after the law against potlatching was dropped from the Indian Act in 1951. Wawadit'la continues to be used for First Nations events with the permission of Martin's grandson. Poles carved by Mungo Martin at the Royal BC Museum are now in Athens, Mexico City, London and many other world cities. Martin died on August 16, 1962. Hundreds of people came to pay their respects when the Chief lay in state in Wawadit'la. The Canadian Navy frigate, HMCS *Ottawa*, carried the casket to Alert Bay for burial. As the *Ottawa* sailed out of Esquimalt Harbour, every ensign dipped. It was the first time in naval history that this honour had been paid a First Nations person. Mungo Martin was the first First Nations person to receive the prestigious Canada Council Medal and the second person to receive it posthumously.

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Village of Field, B.C.

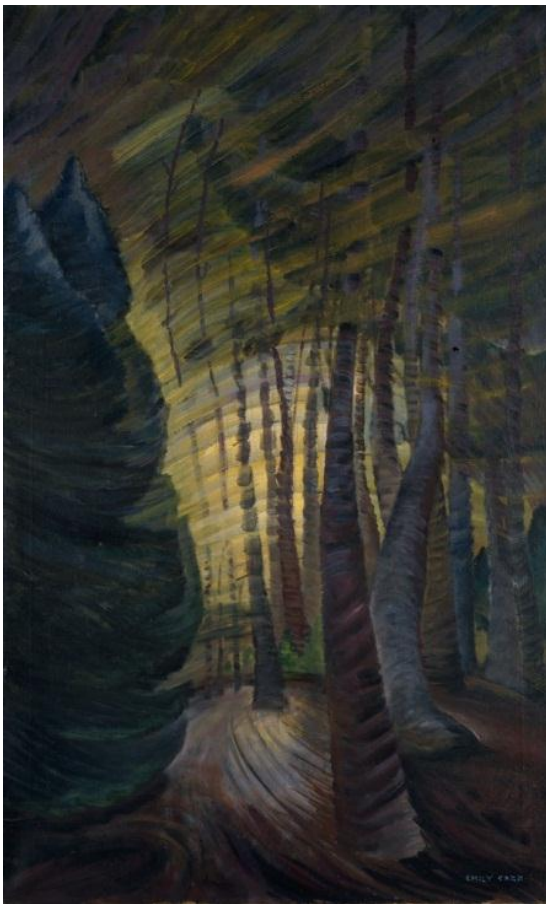
Photograph © Royal BC Museum, BC Archives.

Louis Comfort Tiffany, *Village of Field, B.C.*, 1919.

Watercolour on paper. PDP4687

Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848 - 1933) is an American artist, patron of the arts, and designer who worked in the decorative arts and is best known for his work in stained glass.

He studied with Samuel Colman and George Inness, two American landscape painters. He was a member of the National Academy of Design, which he then, with other artists, rebelled against and created a group called the Society of American Artists. He painted in a realistic style and many of his scenes are from various places in North America and Europe, including Village of Field, B.C., painted in south-eastern British Columbia in 1919.



Sombreness Sunlit

Photograph © Royal BC Museum, BC Archives.

Emily Carr, *Sombreness Sunlit*, 1938-1940.

Oil on canvas. PDP633.

Emily Carr (1871 – 1945) is a renowned Canadian artist and writer. Though she lived and died in Victoria, British Columbia, Carr studied in England and France and travelled extensively throughout coastal British Columbia and Alaska, inspired by First Nations people, art and landscapes. Best known as a painter and author, *The Canadian Encyclopedia* has described her as a Canadian Icon. Carr's professional and personal records, along with over 1000 works of art, are preserved and made available by the BC Archives, part of the Royal British Columbia Museum, Victoria, BC. These works span her entire career and include manuscripts, major paintings in oil and watercolour, drawings, cartoons and works in clay and fabric.

This is one of Carr's classic masterpieces. She captured the movement of sunlight and juxtaposition of shadow within the deep forest of the West Coast.