



Orcas

Art, Stories and Indigenous Knowledge

By Dr. Martha Black
Curator, Ethnology
Research Day 2018



. . . part of the human family.

Button blanket by Mrs. Sam Smith (Kwakwaka'wakw), collected 1967.

Mask by Norman Tait (Nisga'a), 1974.

Hat attributed to Tom Price (Haida), late 19th century.

Kwakwaka'wakw dancer with articulated killer whale mask, Franz Boas photograph, circa 1900.





Killer whales inhabit both the natural and supernatural worlds.

Fin of a supernatural killer whale, part of Heiltsuk ceremonial regalia, 19th century.



Charlie George
(Kwakwaka'wakw),
Soogwilis in the whale,
coloured pencil on paper,
first decade of the 20th
century.

Haida crest figure, 19th
century.



Nuu-chah-nulth
people tell us
that when a
wolf goes into
the water it
turns into a
killer whale.

Tim Paul (Hesquiaht)
*White Killer Whale
Transforming into
Wolves*
serigraph, 1982.



Vince Smith
(Ehattesaht)
Nature's Eye
serigraph, 1988.