

Way Out West: Compositions inspired by Haida art

Key Facts

Haida are members of a North American tribe living on the Pacific coast of Canada.

Through countless generations, Haida artists have developed a system of design, which they apply to both sculptural forms and two-dimensional art. It is this system, including the treatment of line and the use of recurring design elements that distinguishes Haida art.

The ocean is a profound source of inspiration for Haida art. Many of the creatures found on family crest poles and other carved objects are drawn from the ocean. Killer whales, sea lions, halibut, sharks and supernatural beings such as the Sea-wolf are some of these beings of the sea that Haida artists depict.

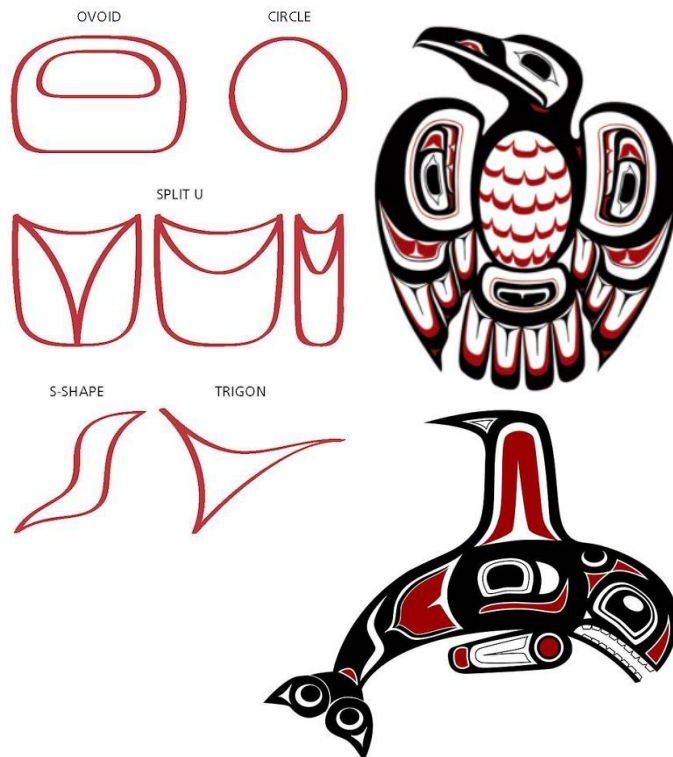
Norval Morrisseau was a Canadian, self-taught artist.

Morrisseau developed his own techniques and artistic vocabulary that captured ancient legends and images that came to him in visions or dreams. Initially he painted on any material that he could find, especially birchbark, and also moose hide.



Key Skills

Observational drawing	Draw accurately from observation - using and talking about the use of tone, pattern, line and shape.
Chalk pastel techniques	Experiment with and use a variety of chalk pastel techniques including, drawing, using the flat edge, blending and layering.
Composition	Carefully consider how elements are placed to create a final image, including the choice of patterns and colours for effect.
Discuss an artist's work	Look at, talk critically about and get inspiration from the work of artists.



Key Vocabulary

Haida art	Recognised around the world for its monumental totem poles and sculptures; fine carving in wood, metal and slate; and weaving. Through countless generations, Haida artists have developed a system of design, which they apply to both sculptural forms and two-dimensional art.
Totem pole	Totem poles were built by about 30 North American tribes living along the Northwest Pacific coast of North America. These wooden towers, carved with images of animals and symbols, were monuments expressing a family's status within a tribe.
medium	Refers to the different materials or supplies that an artist utilises in order to create a work of art.
warm colour	Blues, greens and some purples are considered cool colours. They are said to bring energy.
cold colour	Reds, oranges and yellows are considered warm colours. They are said to bring a feeling of calm.
brush stroke	A mark made by a paintbrush drawn across a surface.
symbol	Something that represents or stands for something else.

