



# *artist* **Phill Ashbee**

Phill Ashbee was born in Ontario, Canada of Cree, French and Irish descent. He moved with his family to Vancouver Island, British Columbia where his father pursued the aboriginal sport of lacrosse.

As a child, Phill felt an intense connection to the inner spirits which lie deep within aboriginal art. This powerful feeling stayed with him and in search of his true identity, he received a vision about himself as an artist. The development of his art has been a discovery of his rich cultural heritage and is expressed today in his unique artistic style.

“My art is a metaphor for my life – as I shape and mold the materials, I exercise my patience, strength and softness. My heart and ears open to the Spirit of Mother Cedar, the Spirit moves.”

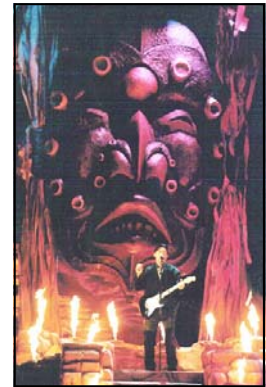


Spirit of the Bear

He gained national acclaim through such pieces as “Transformation Man” which was chosen to adorn the set of the 1998 Aboriginal Achievement Awards Show. This sixteen foot mask can

now be seen in the lobby of the CBC Building in downtown Toronto.

According to John Bell, Founder and President of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, “Phill has joined other luminaries of the artistic and creative world whose work has been recreated for the NAAA shows, like William Reid, Robert Davidson, May Louise Campbell, and Alex Janvier. It is fitting company for one who shows so much promise.”



Transformation Man



Cast Copper Sun Mask

Phill works out of his studio in his Nanaimo, Vancouver Island home. He has won several awards and commissions and his exhibitions have been held throughout British Columbia and the United States. His art work has become part of private collections throughout the world.

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— Showings by Appointment Only —