



ROY HENRY VICKERS

Canadian artist ROY HENRY VICKERS is best known around the world for his limited edition prints. He is also a world-renowned printmaker, painter, carver, author, sought-after keynote speaker and designer whose signature style fuses the traditional images of his WestCoast native ancestry with the realism of his British heritage.

His artwork is held in museums and private collections across Canada and the World and is mostly sold through his artist - owned and operated gallery in Tofino, BC. In addition, Roy is a recognized leader in the First Nations community, and a tireless spokesperson for recovery from addictions and abuse.



Roy has received many honours for his work over the years. In 1987, at the Commonwealth Summit in Vancouver, the original of Roy's painting "A Meeting of Chiefs" was the official gift of the Province of British Columbia to Queen Elizabeth II. During their Vancouver Summit in 1993, former Soviet leader Boris Yeltsin and former U.S. president Bill Clinton received artist's proofs of Roy's print "The Homecoming" as the Province's official gift. In 1994 he was included in the MacLean's Honour Roll of most influential Canadians. Then in 1998 he received the Order of British Columbia in recognition of his significant contributions to society and in 2003, received the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal for his contributions to Canadian culture. Most recently Roy was the recipient of an Honourary Doctorate of Letters from York University and in the same year of 2007, he was awarded the prestigious Order of Canada. Roy's work can be found in private and public collections and galleries around the world including the National Museum of Man (Ottawa, Ontario), University of British Columbia's Museum of Anthropology (Vancouver), the McMichael Canadian Art Collection (Kleinburg, Ontario) and the National Museum of Japan (Osaka.)

Roy Henry Vickers was born June 4, 1946 in Greenville, British Columbia. His father was a fisherman with half-Tsimshian, half-Heiltsuk ancestry; his mother, a teacher of British heritage. The Vickers family lived for eight years in the Tsimshian village of Kitkatla, then moved to Hazelton and on to Victoria, BC. Roy attended Victoria's Oak Bay secondary school and credits his high school art teacher Bill West

for nurturing his talents and kindling a lifelong interest in art. Upon graduation in 1966, he worked as fireman for seven years before beginning his prolific artistic career. Then in 1973 Roy began studying traditional Native art at the Gitanaax School of Northwest Coast Indian Art in Ksan, BC. Influenced by his mixed heritage, he developed a unique artistic style, which is immediately identifiable through its clean lines, vivid colours, and natural themes drawn from the rugged beauty of BC's West Coast. Through merging the uncomplicated, stylized forms of his aboriginal ancestry with the realism of European art, Roy brings two worlds together and creates vibrant images that speak to a universal spirit. In many of his pieces, Roy uses superimposed "shadow images" that add another layer of depth, history and myth to his clear, clean images. His signature Eagle Moon and various suns appear on many pieces as well. The resulting art touches deeply and is accessible to people all over the world regardless of their background, age, beliefs or traditions.

The success of Roy's Eagle Aerie Gallery is a remarkable example of the universal appeal of his art. The Gallery is a traditional northwest coast longhouse Roy built in 1986 in the village of Tofino, on the extreme west coast of Vancouver Island. An artist-owned gallery was — and still is — a rarity and at best a risky business, let alone one built far away from the media and the art-buying public. Today, Eagle Aerie Gallery welcomes more than 200,000 visitors a year from around the world and it is one of the area's main attractions.

In 2004, Roy returned with his family to Hazelton, where he now lives and works by the majestic Skeena River.

Roy has completed more than 20 totem poles including the 10-metre (30-foot) Salmon Totem for the 1994 Commonwealth Games' aquatic centre near Victoria. In addition, Roy was the artistic advisor to the architects and designers of the entire venue. In 1987-1995, Roy was the artistic advisor for the Vancouver International Airport's new terminal. He was also commissioned to create retail storefronts at both the domestic and international terminals. Roy's designs and carvings can also be found in luxury hotels, private homes, on airplanes and motorcycles, canoes and paddles glass pieces and much more.

Roy is the author of *Solstice: The Art of Roy Henry Vickers* (1988) and *Spirit Transformed: A Journey from Tree to Totem* (1996), and the illustrator of the best-selling book *The Elders Are Watching* (1990.) In 2003, Roy published his long awaited second milestone book *Copperman - The Art of Roy Henry Vickers*, which is a substantial retrospective of his work and images of the past 15 years.

Roy Henry Vickers is a prolific artist who in addition to his many other artistic ventures and community interests, creates a steady flow of new limited edition prints each year. Many are sold out within months to regular collectors and fans who feel a personal connection with not only the art but with the artist.