

Grand Entry - Manitoba Aboriginal Arts Council, Inc, Central Region

This work consists of nine raven figures made of foam and epoxy resin, created by an Aboriginal Artist collective based in Manitoba. Each raven portrays a collective cultural history, and each figure is the artist's representation of the raven's spirit.

The Manitoba Aboriginal Arts Council Inc. was founded in 2008 by G. Jazz de Montigny (project manager, Anishinaabe) to promote its distinct art style.

The artists hail from across Manitoba and worked, individually and collectively, on sculpture concepts. Carmen Hathaway (Portage la Prairie, Abenaki) joined the group at a later stage.

Colleen Cutschall (senior artist, Lakota): Colleen's raven is older, with a scarf and long braided hair. She is stately and respectful, at the back of the crowd. Irvin Head (senior artist, Cree/Belgian): His raven is the messenger; the rings signify the whirlwind of life that can take you and spit you out. Raven teaches us survival in how we emerge from this whirlwind. Ian August (Metis): A self-portrait - tall and skinny, with hooded shoulders, typical of the city. Riel Benn (Birdtail Sioux Reserve): Inspired by flames, his raven characterizes his physical form, with stylized hair and long black coat. Roger Crait (Metis): His contemporary urban raven retains past cultural teachings, despite living in the city. Jasyn Lucas (Cree): Jasyn's is a combination of classical/realistic and expressive elements. Jeff Monias (Ojibwe/Cree): Jeff's great-grandfather's raven teachings have been passed down. His raven's mouth is very detailed, in observance of the teachings. Gayle Sinclair (Cree): Gayle's has a crooked beak - some of us have walked a crooked path. The star blanket is like the women's blankets; the baby illustrates the importance of producing new generations. Jackie Traverse (Anishinaabe): Jackie's is a woman, part of the urban environment but still deeply rooted in her culture. Her necklace reminds her of where she comes from: Turtle Island.