

Plenty - Aaron Nelson-Moody, Squamish Nation

This is an installation that was created as a Welcome Work during the 2010 Olympics. It consists of five spindle whorls which are made of concrete and steel. The spindle whorls feature four images of salmon to celebrate the arrival of people from the four corners of the Earth. The salmon, a gift of the Earth, is a familiar motif in Coast Salish art.

Spindle whorls are used to spin wool. Coast Salish weavers, usually women, have a long history of weaving valuable fabrics. Traditionally, the men would make weaving kits, including the carved whorls, as gifts for the women. Carved whorls are highly prized and exchanged at potlatches. (The potlatch is a traditional fall/winter ceremony celebrated by the Northwest Coast First Nations.)

The five spindle whorls recall the five Olympic Rings, and are also influenced by the shapes and materials of curling rocks. The whorls are cast in white concrete and placed on stainless spindle mounts, which are fixed in concentric, contrasting coloured rings.

Aaron sees the Olympic Games as being like a giant potlatch, bringing people together from many nations. With his work, Aaron celebrates the hopes and dreams of the Olympic and Paralympic athletes who will strive to show their very best to the world in 2010.