

A twist on tradition

Ancestors' techniques supply a twist to an ancient traditional form. Customarily, the pounded cedar canoe cape is pulled over the head and made short to accommodate paddling action. Here, the open front and formed shoulders posed a contemporary challenge. The visual language of formline illustrates stories and events. The front of the cape speaks to the honoring of the power of the sea. The canoe silhouette and line of copper shield shapes on the back tell of Haida Chiefs Edenshaw and Wiah's encounter on the beachfront of Massett in Haida Gwaii.

Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University



Canoe with Indians at Rose Harbour, Queen Charlotte Islands, Sunday 3 March 1793.

Cedar Bark Cape

Northwest Coast Artist

ca. 1850

Cedar bark

1-184

Canoe Cape

Evelyn Vanderhoop, Haida

2010

Merino wool, yellow cedar bark, metallic thread, sea otter fur

2019-18/1

Shaman Figure

Haida Artist

ca. late 19th century

Argillite, bone

1-1651

Gift of the Hauberg Foundation Grant

Ravenstail Headband

Kathy Doyle, Haida

2000

Yarn, wool, velvet, leather

2004-12/1

Apron

John Bennett, Haida

ca. 2010

Felt, cotton cloth, cotton thread

2009-19/1

Gift of John Bennet