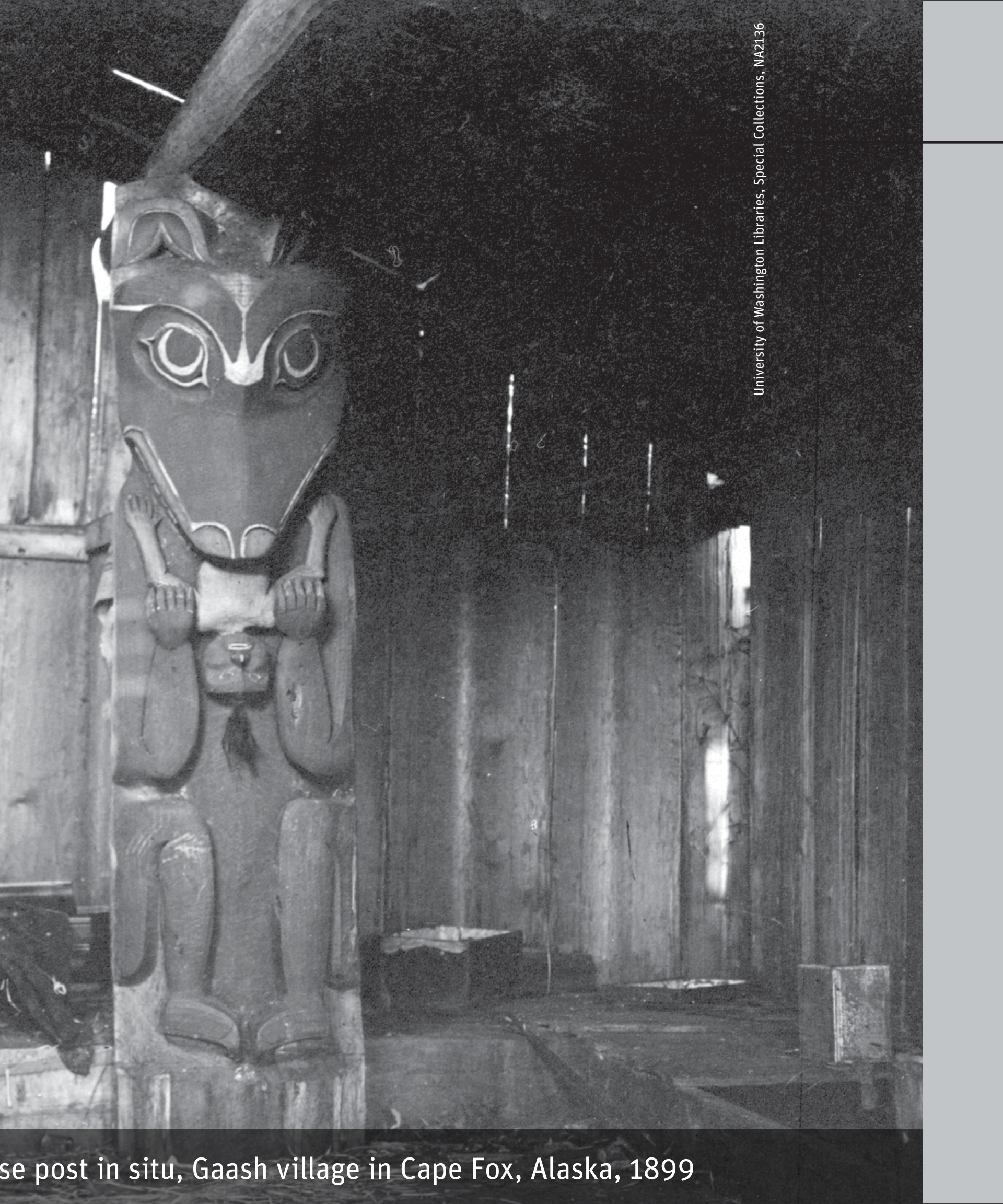


Righting this wrong began in 2001, when the Burke returned the clan property to the Saanya Kwáan Tlingit people of Cape Fox. A healing ceremony was held in Ketchikan and at the original village site to honor the ancestors and acknowledge the wrong that had been done.



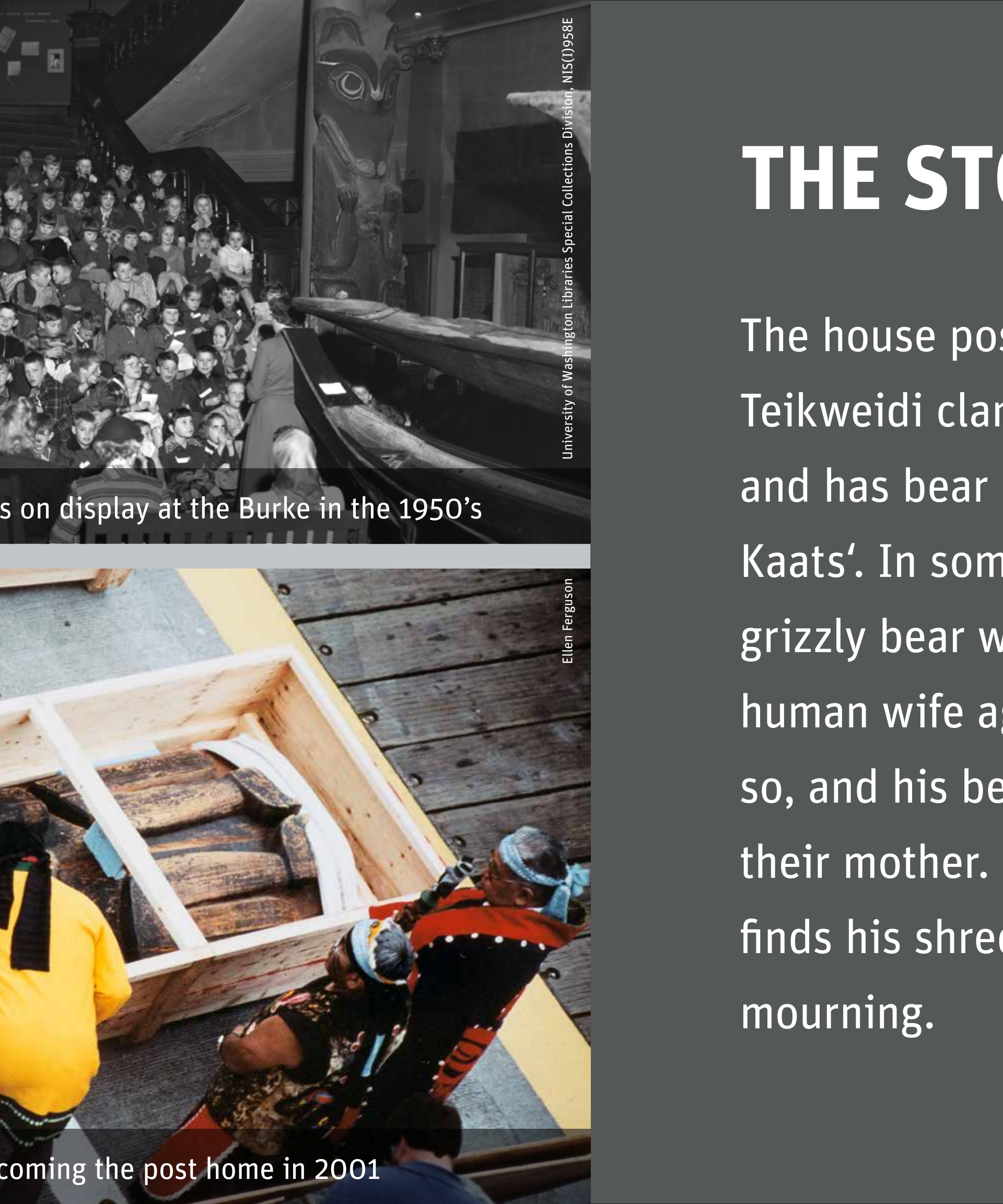
House post in situ, Gaash village in Cape Fox, Alaska, 1899

University of Washington Libraries Special Collections Division, MS0958E

Finding our way forward together

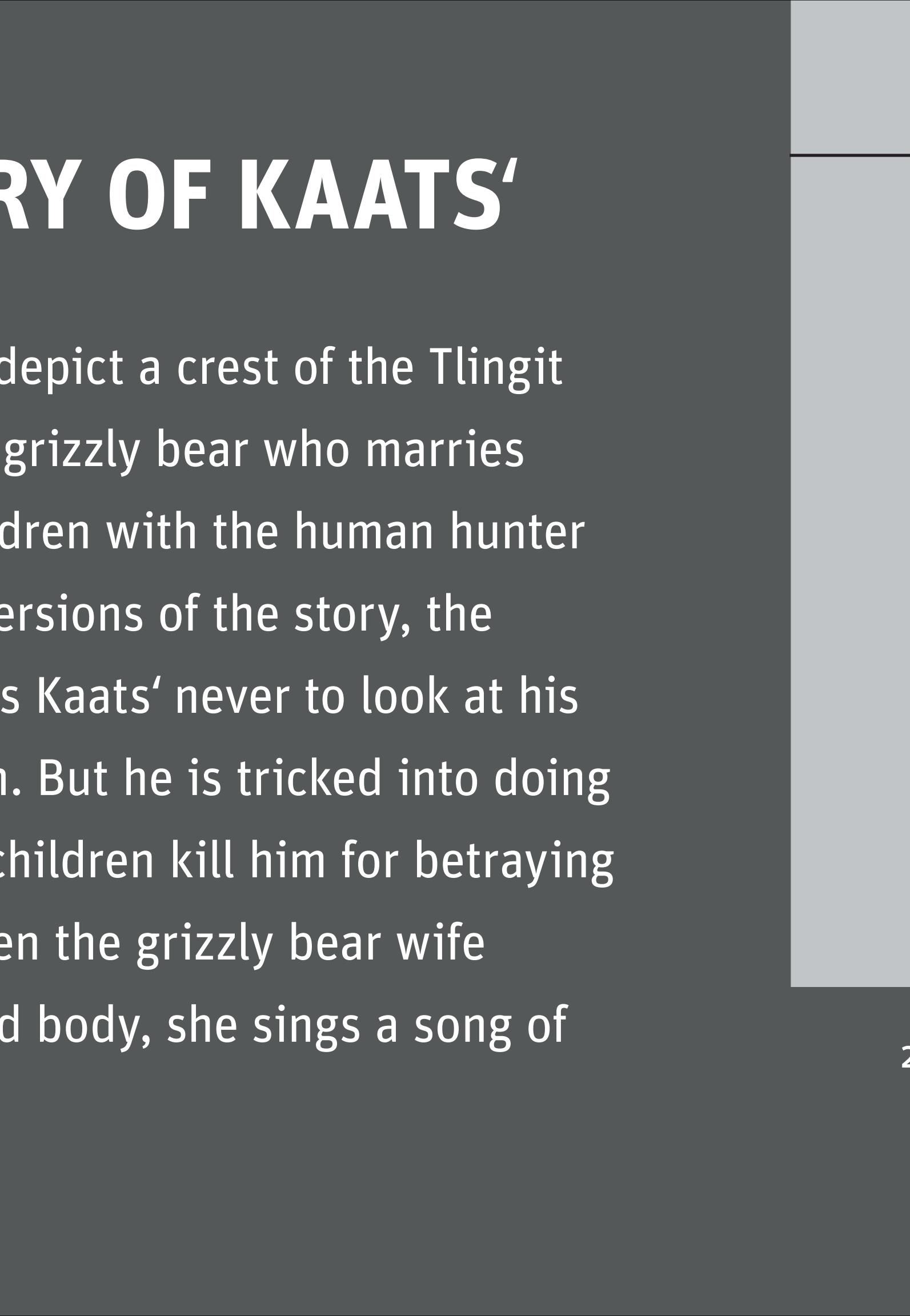
Using cedar logs donated by the Tlingit community of Cape Fox, the Burke Museum commissioned new posts from master Tlingit carver Nathan Jackson and his son, Stephen Jackson.

Replacing rightfully returned objects with new commissioned pieces allows the museum to tell an important story. It addresses the historical wrongs represented by the stolen monuments while displaying new pieces by contemporary artists who address difficult and traumatic histories.

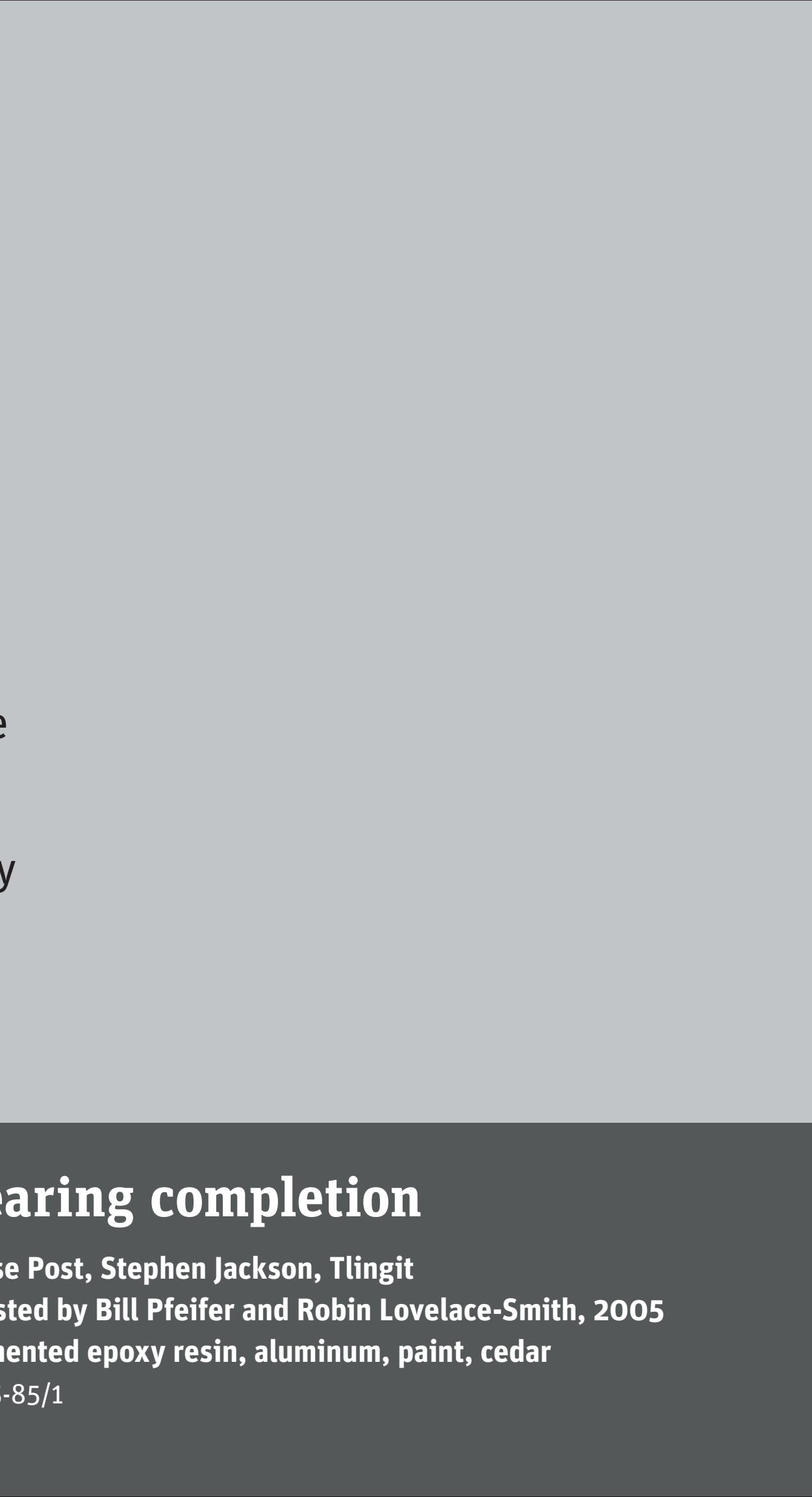


House posts on display at the Burke in the 1950's

University of Washington Libraries Special Collections Division, MS0958E



House posts on display at the Burke in the 1950's



House posts on display at the Burke in the 1950's

THE STORY OF KAATS'

The house posts depict a crest of the Tlingit Teikweidi clan: a grizzly bear who marries and has bear children with the human hunter Kaats'. In some versions of the story, the grizzly bear warns Kaats' never to look at his human wife again. But he is tricked into doing so, and his bear children kill him for betraying their mother. When the grizzly bear wife finds his shredded body, she sings a song of mourning.

A Grisly End

Nathan Jackson's house post shows the first part of the story of Kaats', when he and his grizzly bear wife are happy together.

Stephen Jackson's post depicts Kaats' at the moment of his death by his bear children. The violence evoked by the pole echoes the damage done to communities through the theft of their cultural heritage—the two original Teikweidí Grizzly Bear house posts from Gaash village in Cape Fox, Alaska.

20 | Grizzly Bear with Kaats'

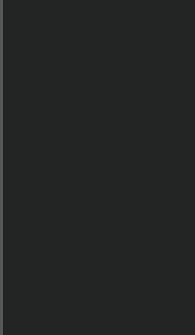
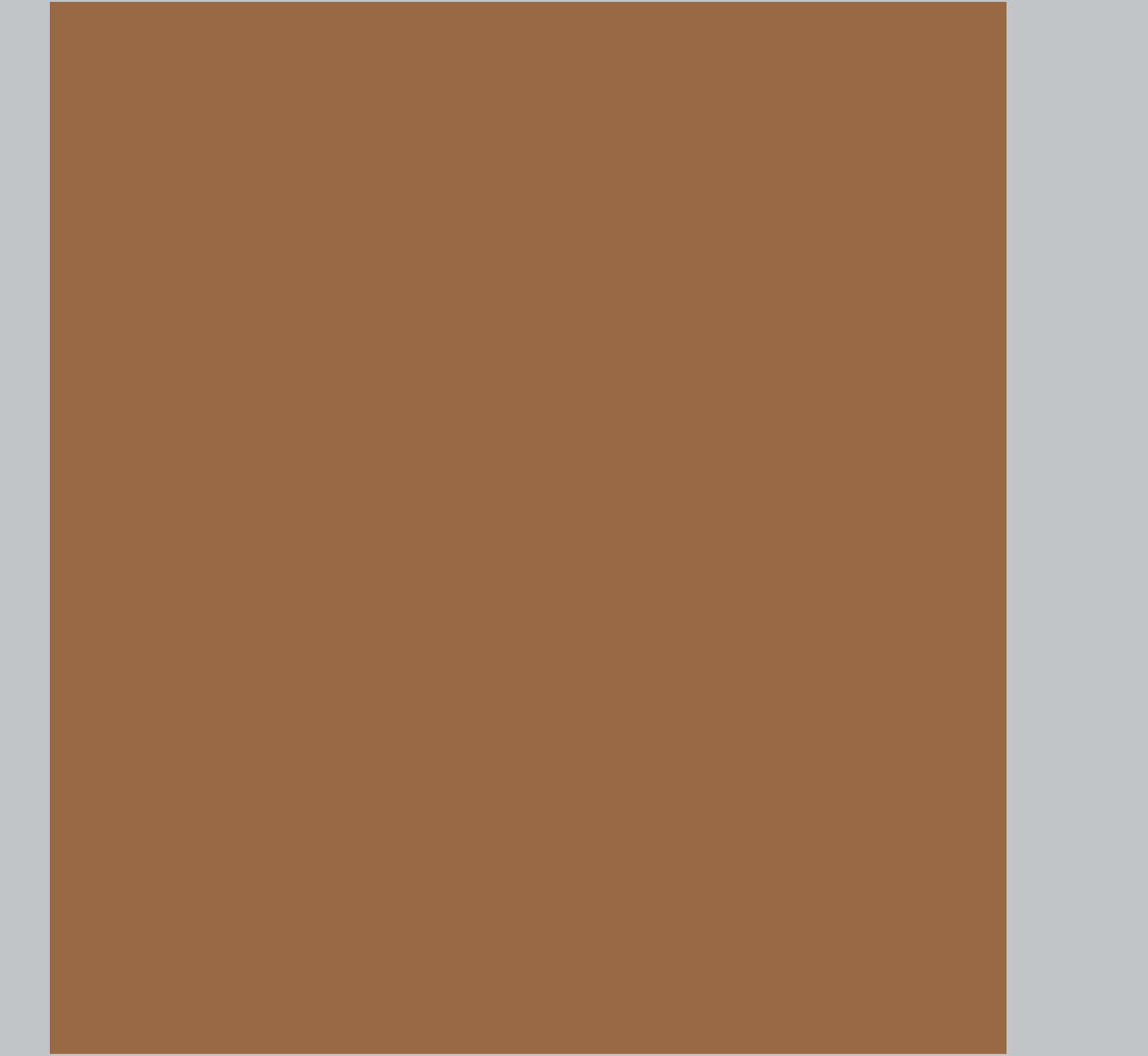
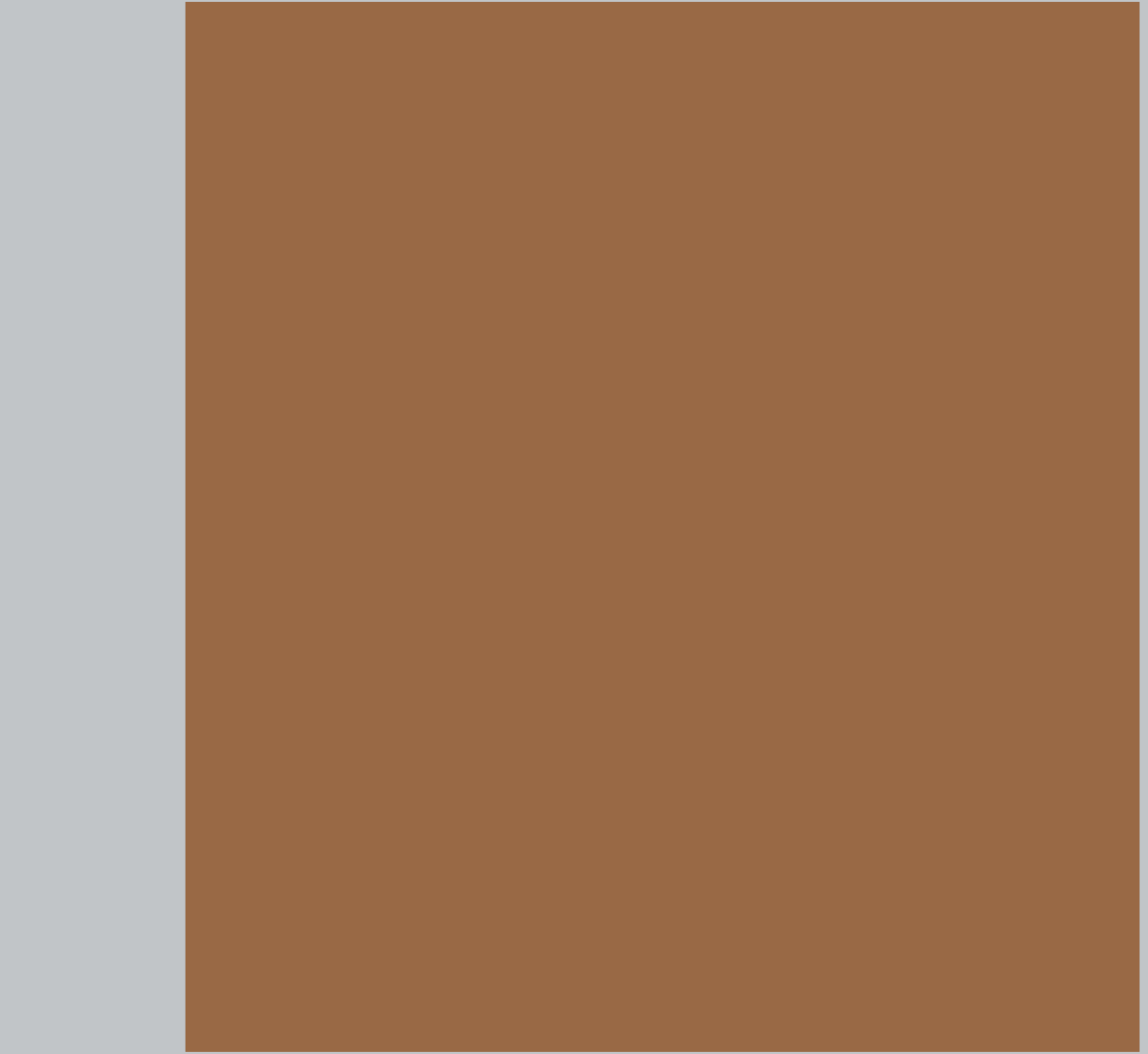
House Post, Nathan Jackson, Tlingit, assisted by Bill Pfeifer, 2005
Red cedar, latex exterior house paint
2005-84/1

20 | Nearing completion

House Post, Stephen Jackson, Tlingit
Assisted by Bill Pfeifer and Robin Lovelace-Smith, 2005
Pigmented epoxy resin, aluminum, paint, cedar
2005-85/1



Same story, different feel



Nathan Jackson's post features materials and methods (adzed cedar) used for generations to tell the story of Kaats'.



Stephen Jackson's post brings new technologies and materials (epoxy resin) to his work to depict the graphic and violent death of Kaats'.