

# ALL ARE WELCOME HERE

Along the beaches of Washington State and Vancouver Island, human figures like this one stretched out their arms in a customary gesture of welcome among Native peoples. Welcome figures faced the water to greet and honor guests as they arrived by canoe. In this tradition, we welcome you to visit our collections and be inspired.

## *Cattail Tunic*

Melissa Peterson, Makah  
2002  
Cattail  
2002-83/1

## *Welcome Figure Head*

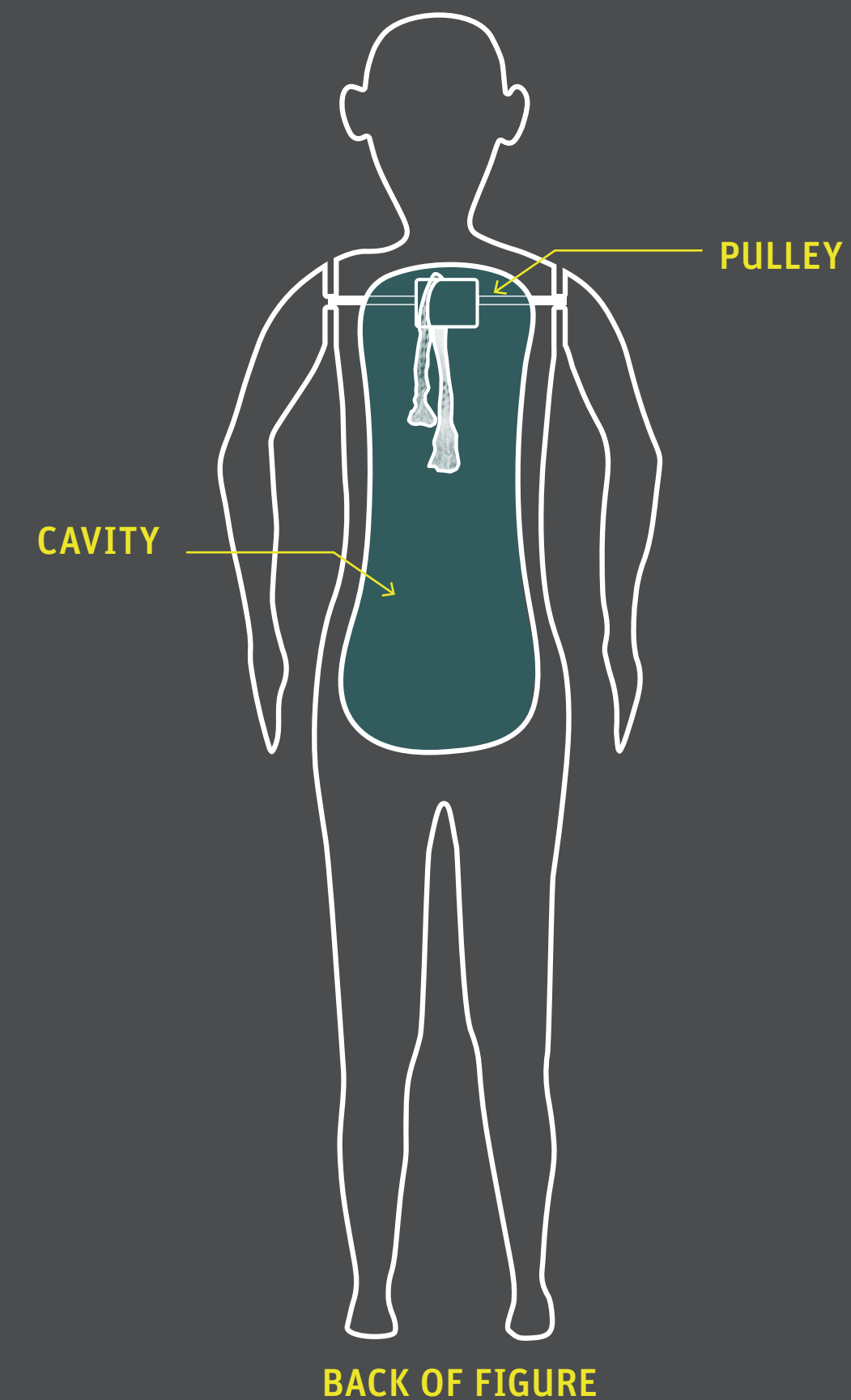
Steve Brown  
1969  
Western red cedar, nails, iron, paint  
R-198

## Makah Welcome Figure

This welcome figure was originally a gift from Tla-o-qui-aht elder Annie Williams to Makah leader Charlie Swan. When it was donated to the Burke Museum in 1952, the head was missing. The Burke commissioned Northwest artist Steve Brown to carve a replica head, based on an earlier photograph. Helma Swan Ward, Charlie's daughter, also remembered that the figure wore a tunic. The Burke first dressed the figure in a cloth tunic and later commissioned a cattail tunic from Makah weaver Melissa Peterson.

## *Welcome Figure*

Atlieu (Charlie Williams), Tla-o-qui-aht  
ca. 1930  
Metal, cedar, nails, rope  
1-1124 Gift of the Hunter family



This figure originally stood along the shore of Vancouver Island outside Clayoquot. It could pivot, and the arms could be raised and lowered on special occasions.

The renowned carver Atlieu came from a Tla-o-qui-aht village on Vancouver Island but lived part of the time with the Makah in Neah Bay. He was a skilled shaman and carver—sharing his knowledge with anthropologists, as well as traveling to the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904 to engage with the public.



James G. McCurdy, Museum of History and Industry, Seattle