



VERNON ASP



Yukon
First Nations



Vernon Asp is from the Tahltan First Nation and is a member of the Wolf Clan. Asp was raised in the Northern Tutchone tradition and resides in Carmacks, Yukon (YT).

From 1994-98, Asp attended the Kitanmax School of Northwest Coast Indian Art in Hazelton, British Columbia, studying with master carvers Vernon Stephens and Ken Mowatt. Vernon also considers Gitksan master carvers Phil Janze and Walter Harris to be his mentors.

Asp's artwork is of the Gitksan-Tsimshian style, which is more realistic than the strict symbolism of Northwest Coast style. However, the abstract influence of teacher Ken Mowatt is evident in his work and he feels that his personalized style honours his mentors.

In 2001, the Yukon Art Centre Public Art Gallery in Whitehorse, YT exhibited Asp's work; in 2006 his work was shown at the Martha Cerny Gallery, Switzerland and Museum of Zurich, Switzerland. Vernon's work is in private and public collections including the Yukon Permanent Art Collection, Whitehorse, YT, and he has completed commissions for the Yukon Native Teachers Program; Council of Yukon First Nations; and Government of Yukon.

Teaching comes naturally to Asp. In 1999, he presented at The Carvers Symposium in Whitehorse, YT; and from 2006-08 he taught at the Sundog Retreat Carving Program in Whitehorse, YT. In 2009, he started the First Nations' Art and Technology Program at Tantalus School in Carmacks, YT.

Asp has been the recipient of multiple awards from the Yukon Department of Tourism and Culture.

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