

Andrew Kreps
Gallery

22 Cortlandt Alley,
New York, NY 10013

Tue–Sat, 10 am–6 pm
andrewkreps.com

Tel. (212)741-8849
Fax. (212)741-8163

Beau Dick: *Walas Gwa'yam / Big, Great Whale*

22 Cortlandt Alley & 394 Broadway
April 11 - May 11, 2024
Opening Reception:
Thursday, April 11th, 6 – 8 pm

“Our whole culture has been shattered. It’s up to the artists now to pick up the pieces and try and put them together, back where they belong. Yeah, it does become political. It becomes beyond political; it becomes very deep and emotional.” – Beau Dick speaking in the 2017 film ‘Maker of Monsters: The Extraordinary Life of Beau Dick.’

Andrew Kreps Gallery is pleased to announce *Walas Gwa'yam / Big, Great Whale*, an exhibition of works by artist and activist Chief Beau Dick (1955 - 2017; B. Village Island, Kingcome Inlet, BC; Kwakwaka'wakw) made between 1979 and 2015.

Beau Dick’s works are deeply informed by the tradition of potlatch, a gift-giving ceremony practiced by Indigenous people of the coast of Pacific Northwest Canada, which focused on the redistribution of wealth as a tool for building solidarity. Outlawed by the Canadian Government for nearly seventy years as part of an ongoing history of forced assimilation, the seclusion of Dick’s birthplace on Kingcome Inlet (Gwa’yi) allowed his community to continue practicing customs relatively free from the gaze of colonial authorities. Trained in wood-carving by his father, grandfather, and other master carvers, and completing his education in Vancouver, Dick was acutely aware of inherent tensions between contemporary consumer culture and Kwakwaka’wakw teachings. Refuting his masks as static objects, his carvings reference supernatural figures, like Dzunuk’wa, the “wild woman of the woods,” and her counterpart, Bakwas, “wild man of the woods,” which are reanimated to combat what Dick saw as capitalism’s “ravenous” oppression. Frequently employing his works in dances and performances, in 2012 he took forty Atlakim (Forest) masks to his community in Alert Bay, where after one final ceremony, they were ritually burned, referencing the ongoing responsibility for rebirth, and recreation in the face of erased tradition.

In 2023, Beau Dick’s work was included in the major exhibition *Indian Theater: Native Performance, Art, and Self-Determination since 1969*, Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York, curated by Candice Hopkins. Past solo exhibitions included *Devoured by Consumerism*, White Columns, New

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York, 2019, traveled to Remai Modern, Saskatoon, Canada, 2019, *Beau Dick: Revolutionary Spirit*, Audain Art Museum, Whistler, BC, 2018. In addition, Dick participated in important group exhibitions during his lifetime, such as documenta 14 in Athens, GR, and Kassel, Germany, 2017, *Sakahàn: International Indigenous Art*, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, 2013, and the 17th Biennale of Sydney, Australia, 2010, among others. A lifelong advocate and activist, Dick was inspired by the ongoing movement Idle No More, which was initiated in response to legislative abuses of Indigenous treaty rights by the Canadian Government. In 2013, Dick broke Copper Shields on the steps of the BC legislative assembly, and the next year, gathered even more supporters to break copper in front of Parliament Hill in Ottawa, stating “*In breaking this copper we confront the tyranny and oppression of a government who has forsaken human rights and turned its back on nature in the interests of the almighty dollar, and we act in accordance with our laws.*”

The gallery thanks LaTiesha Fazakas of Fazakas Gallery, Vancouver, and the Forge Project, Taghkanic, New York for their support and assistance in the organization of this exhibition.

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ENTRANCE

22 CORTLANDT ALLEY



BEAU DICK
*Kwakwaka'wakw, Musgamakw
Dzawada'enuxw First Nation
Bella Coola Ancestor Mask, 1994*

Yellow cedar, acrylic, horsehair
15 x 12 x 7 inches (38.1 x 30.5 x
17.8 cm.)
(BD23-007)



BEAU DICK
*Kwakwaka'wakw, Musgamakw
Dzawada'enuxw First Nation
Hama'sa Bear Headdress, c. 1998*

Yellow cedar, acrylic paint, cedar
bark, and copper
20 1/2 x 7 inches (52.1 x 17.8
cm.)
(BD23-020)



BEAU DICK
*Kwakwaka'wakw, Musgamakw
Dzawada'enuxw First Nation
Supernatural Raven, 1990*

Red cedar, acrylic, cedar bark,
feathers
35 x 43 x 14 inches (88.9 x 109.2
x 35.6 cm.)
(BD23-004)



BEAU DICK
*Kwakwaka'wakw, Musgamakw
Dzawada'enuxw First Nation
Otter Woman, c. 2012*

Red cedar, acrylic, horsehair
16 x 15 x 9 inches (40.6 x 38.1 x
22.9 cm.)
(BD23-005)



BEAU DICK
*Kwakwaka'wakw, Musgamakw
Dzawada'enuxw First Nation
Yo'lakwame, 1998*

Red cedar, acrylic, horsehair
10 1/2 x 13 x 3 inches (26.7 x 33
x 7.6 cm.)
(BD23-015)



BEAU DICK
*Kwakwaka'wakw, Musgamakw
Dzawada'enuxw First Nation
Pookmis, 2000*

Wood, fur, paint
14 x 14 x 12 inches (35.6 x 35.6 x
30.5 cm.)
(BD23-003)



BEAU DICK
*Kwakwaka'wakw, Musgamakw
Dzawada'enuxw First Nation
Tsonoqua, 2006*

Red cedar, acrylic, horsehair
14 x 11 x 5 1/2 inches (35.6 x
27.9 x 14 cm.)
(BD23-014)



BEAU DICK
*Kwakwaka'wakw, Musgamakw
Dzawada'enuxw First Nation
Hok Hok, 2016*

Red cedar, acrylic, cedar bark,
feathers
40 x 83 x 9 inches (101.6 x 210.8
x 22.9 cm.)
(BD23-016)

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BEAU DICK
*Kwakwaka'wakw, Musgamakw
Dzawada'enuxw First Nation
Wind*, c. 2005

Red cedar, acrylic, feathers
28 x 17 1/2 x 9 inches (71.1 x
44.5 x 22.9 cm.)
(BD23-010)



BEAU DICK
*Kwakwaka'wakw, Musgamakw
Dzawada'enuxw First Nation
Moon*, 1979

Cedar, acrylic, cedar bark
14 1/2 x 13 inches (36.8 x 33
cm.)
(BD23-001)



BEAU DICK
*Kwakwaka'wakw, Musgamakw
Dzawada'enuxw First Nation
Bella Coola Mask*, 1980

Red cedar, acrylic, cedar bark
10 x 9 1/2 x 5 inches (25.4 x 24.1
x 12.7 cm.)
(BD23-006)



BEAU DICK
*Kwakwaka'wakw, Musgamakw
Dzawada'enuxw First Nation
Winalagalis (War Spirit) Puppet*,
2015

Red cedar, acrylic, graphite,
horsehair, cedar bark
60 x 20 x 12 inches (152.4 x 50.8
x 30.5 cm.)
(BD23-017)



BEAU DICK
*Kwakwaka'wakw, Musgamakw
Dzawada'enuxw First Nation,
Yagis*, c. 2005

Red cedar, acrylic, horsehair
20 x 15 x 8 inches (50.8 x 38.1 x
20.3 cm.)
(BD24-004)



BEAU DICK
*Kwakwaka'wakw, Musgamakw
Dzawada'enuxw First Nation
Nu-Tlu-Mu (Fool) Mask*, 1979

Cedar, acrylic, cedar bark,
feathers
11 x 7 inches (27.9 x 17.8 cm.)
(BD23-002)



BEAU DICK
*Kwakwaka'wakw, Musgamakw
Dzawada'enuxw First Nation
Bukwus Mask*

Cedar, leather, cedar bark,
feathers, acrylic
23 x 16 x 8 1/4 inches (58.4 x
40.6 x 21 cm.)
(BD24-001)



BEAU DICK
*Kwakwaka'wakw, Musgamakw
Dzawada'enuxw First Nation
Human and Loon Mask*, 1986

Red and yellow cedar
22 x 34 1/2 x 10 inches (55.9 x
87.6 x 25.4 cm.)
(BD24-006)

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DOUBLE HEIGHT SPACE



BEAU DICK
*Kwakwaka'wakw, Musgamakw
Dzawada'enuxw First Nation
Bookwus Ghost, c. 2003*

Red cedar, acrylic, horsehair,
cedar bark, feathers, chewing
gum
10 x 12 x 4 inches (25.4 x 30.5 x
10.2 cm.)
(BD23-013)



BEAU DICK
*Kwakwaka'wakw, Musgamakw
Dzawada'enuxw First Nation
Towkwit Woman, 2000*

Western red cedar, acrylic,
horsehair, bone
10 x 6 3/4 x 4 inches (25.4 x 17.1
x 10.2 cm.)
(BD24-002)



BEAU DICK
*Kwakwaka'wakw, Musgamakw
Dzawada'enuxw First Nation
Inuit Weather Mask, 2015*

Red cedar, acrylic, graphite
30 x 30 x 19 inches (76.2 x 76.2 x
48.3 cm.)
(BD24-005)



BEAU DICK
*Kwakwaka'wakw, Musgamakw
Dzawada'enuxw First Nation
Mask*

Red cedar, acrylic, horsehair
14 x 14 1/2 inches (35.6 x 36.8
cm.)
(BD24-003)

OFFICE

394 BROADWAY



BEAU DICK
*Kwakwaka'wakw, Musgamakw
Dzawada'enuxw First Nation
Raven Puppet, c.2000*

Red and yellow cedar
12 x 19 inches (30.5 x 48.3 cm.)
(BD23-021)



BEAU DICK
*Kwakwaka'wakw, Musgamakw
Dzawada'enuxw First Nation
Crooked Beak, 1994*

Red cedar, cedar bark, acrylic
12 x 8 x 34 inches (30.5 x 20.3 x
86.4 cm.)
(BD23-008)



BEAU DICK
*Kwakwaka'wakw, Musgamakw
Dzawada'enuxw First Nation
Pookmis, 1987*

Alder, cloth, horsehair, paint
14 x 13 x 9 inches (35.6 x 33 x
22.9 cm.)
(BD23-009)



BEAU DICK
Video

Beau Dick

BORN 1955, ALERT BAY, BC, CANADA
DIED 2017, ALERT BAY, BC, CANADA

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 John, Fazakas Gallery, Vancouver, BC
2019 *Early Works*, Fazakas Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Devoured by Consumerism, White Columns, New York, NY; Remail
Modern, Saskatoon, SK
2018 *Beau Dick: Revolutionary Spirit*, Audain Art Museum, Whistler, BC
2017 *Supernaturalis: Chief Beau Dick*, Gallery Weekend, San Francisco, CA
2016 *LALAKENIS/ALL DIRECTIONS: A JOURNEY OF TRUTH AND
UNITY*, Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, Vancouver, BC
2012 *Ceremonial/Art*, Macaulay & Co. Fine Art, Vancouver, BC
2010 *Pookmis*, Blanket Contemporary Art Inc., Vancouver, BC

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Indian Theater: Native Performance, Art, and Self-Determination since
1969*, Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson,
NY
2022 *Land Back*, the 6th Contemporary Native Art Biennial, La Guilde,
Montréal, QC
Ripple, Libby Leshgold Gallery, Emily Carr University of Art +
Design, Vancouver, BC
2021 *Beau Dick & Christophe Brunnquell*, Consortium, Académie Conti,
Vosne Romanée, France
France Espressioni. The Proposition, Castello di Rivoli, Rivoli, Italy
2020 *Winterfest: An Exhibition of Arts and Crafts*, Aspen Art Museum,
Aspen, CO
Pine's Eye, Talbot Rice Gallery, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh,
UK
Riopelle: The Call of Northern Landscapes and Indigenous Cultures,
Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal, QC
2019 *For every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you: Selections from*

- The Bailey Collection*, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal, QC
Hair, Macaulay & Co. Fine Art, Vancouver, BC
- 2018 *Etnos - The Faces of Diversity*, Santander Cultural, Porto Alegre, Brazil
- 2017 *Canadian Biennial*, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, ON
Inside The Nest, Simon Preston Gallery, New York, NY
The Pacific, Libby Leshgold Gallery, Emily Carr University of Art +
Design, Vancouver, BC
documenta 14, Athens, Greece and Kassel, Germany
- 2016 *This is with it as it is*, Audain Art Centre, University of British
Columbia, Vancouver, BC
Divergent Convergence, Fazakas Gallery, Vancouver, BC
- 2015 *Beau Dick, Nicholas Galanin, Jeneen Frei Njootli*, Macaulay & Co. Fine
Art, Vancouver, BC
Drama, Fazakas Gallery, Vancouver, BC
The Box of Treasures: Gifts from the Supernatural, Bill Reid Gallery,
Vancouver, BC
- 2014 *Inappropriate*, Fazakas Gallery, Vancouver, BC
- 2013 *Story*, Fazakas Gallery, Vancouver, BC
RezErect: Native Erotica, The Bill Reid Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Cracker-Barrel, Macaulay & Co. Fine Art, Vancouver, BC
Witnesses: Art and Canada's Indian Residential Schools, The Morris
and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, Vancouver, BC
The Voyage, or Three Years At Sea Part VI, Charles H Scott Gallery,
Vancouver, BC
Sakahàn: International Indigenous Art, National Gallery of Canada,
Ottawa, ON
Gallery Artists, Macaulay & Co. Fine Art, Vancouver, BC
- 2012 *Carrying on "Irregardless": Humour in Contemporary Northwest Coast
Art*, Bill Reid Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Scott Burton, Giuliani Foundation, Rome
Shore, Forest and Beyond: Art From the Audain Collection, Vancouver
Art Gallery, Vancouver, BC
- 2011 *Sacred Stories, Timeless Tales: Mythic Traditions in World Art*, The
Lowe Art Museum, University of Miami, FL
- 2010 17th International Biennale of Sydney, Museum of Contemporary
Art, Sydney, Australia
Monster: The Fear Inside, West Vancouver Museum, West Vancouver,
BC
- 2009 *Challenging Traditions: Contemporary First Nations Art of the
Northwest Coast*, McMichael Canadian Art Collection, Kleinberg, ON
*In the Spirit of the Ancestors: Contemporary Northwest Coast Native
Art*, The Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, University
of Washington, Seattle, WA
- 2006 *75 Years of Collecting: First Nations: Myths and Realities*, Vancouver
Art Gallery, Vancouver, BC
- 2004 *Supernatural: Neil Campbell and Beau Dick*, Contemporary Art
Gallery of Vancouver, Vancouver, BC
- 1998 *Down From the Shimmering Sky*, Vancouver Art Gallery, BC

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AWARDS

2012 VIVA Award, The Jack and Doris Shadbolt Foundation for the Visual Arts

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Museum of Civilization, Hull, QC
Museum of Anthropology, Vancouver, BC
Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, BC
U'mista Cultural Center, Alert Bay, BC
The Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, University of Washington, Seattle, WA
Heard Museum, Phoenix, AZ
National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, ON
Hallie Ford Museum of Art, Willamette University, Salem, OR
Canada House, London, UK
Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN
Forge Project Collection, NY
Gochman Family Collection, NY