

Tom Stark, Director
Out of the Mist Gallery www.outofthemistgallery.com
716 View Street
Victoria BC Canada

**Re: Window to the Spirit World of the Canoe People:
Exhibition and Sale of Traditional Salish Art and Artifacts**

Dear Tom Stark:

1 July 2007

I read your advertisements, invitations and brochure. Your sale is scheduled to open July 1st and continue to August 31, 2007. How did you acquire all of these sacred cultural ceremonial masks and other regalia of the Salish people? How did you accumulate these artifacts? They are supposed to be protected under the BC Heritage Conservation Act. Indigenous people can tell you and most other settlers can tell you what has happened to sacred sites and significant cultural regalia over the past 150 years. Who do you think you are fooling? Who gave you permission to exhibit and exploit cultural practices? Who is certifying the artifacts as authentic – An Archaeologist or so called "Indian expert"?

I am sure a lot of tourists purchase from your gallery: how do they leave the country? Or do you send their purchases without authorization? Trying to cross the border with items over the authorized amount per stay is supposed to be investigated as potentially illegal and the items may be confiscated. Often with a fee they are allowed to go on through. In hearing about your exhibit I am wondering how exporting stolen heritage is allowed? Who are you running this through to allow it take place within Canada and outside of Canada? I have a lot of questions about this and want to meet you in person to ask them. Unless I am not allowed into your exhibit to view my culture from the narrow view through the window of a Colonist gallery.

You are neither educating about the true history or creating awareness of Indigenous people: you are exploiting and minimizing Indigenous people. Once again settlers to an Indigenous land are exploiting a culture for economic gain. Economic entrepreneurs such as yourself are replacing the church's effort to kill the spirit of the Indigenous people including cultural practices, and their connection to the ancestors and land. Your business of selling sacred items is to exploit and eliminate a culture for financial gains. This needs to be a punishable crime in the Canadian system but the authorities participate by letting it to continue.

You are a person with no consciousness, humanity or heart and have no right to exhibit and sell a significant part of our culture. If you had any integrity you would give this collection back to the Salish people. Anyone that supports or assists your business in this narrow view through the window of a Colonist is a contributor to the cultural genocide of the Indigenous people. Then again that is the underlying purpose as I see it; you hang up our culture like trophies and sell it like a prize to the rich. You need to stop your unethical exhibit and give it all back to the Salish people. You are obligated to respond and meet with the people you are exploiting and be held responsible to your disdainful and illicit actions.

I have copied this email to Stan Hagen, Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture.

Cheryl Bryce
Lekwungen (Songhees)
Victoria BC