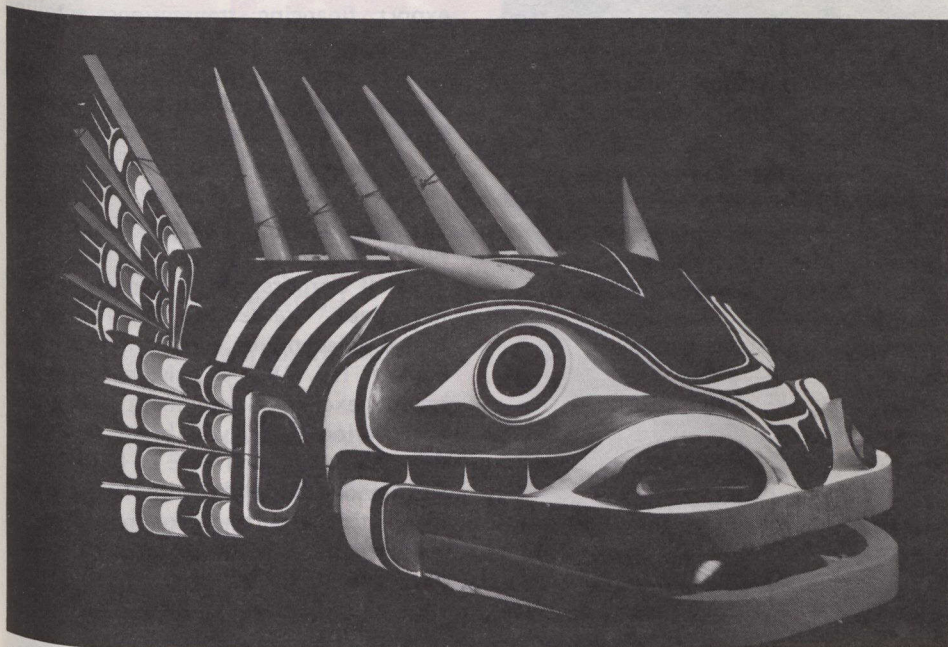


## The legacy of northwest coast Indian art displayed



*Southern Kwakiutl (Sculpin Mask) by Richard Hunt, 1980.*

*The Legacy, Continuing Traditions of Canadian Northwest Coast Indian Art*, an exhibition currently on display at the University of British Columbia's Museum of Anthropology, features more than 100 of the finest northwest coast Indian masks and headdresses, engraved silver and gold boxes, painted screens and other art works.

*The Legacy* is one of the most comprehensive exhibitions of northwest coast Indian art in British Columbia to focus on northwest coast contemporary art and the traditional background which shaped this art. Traditional and contem-



*Gold bowl with killer whale on the lid by Bill Reid, 1971.*



*A silver Haida bracelet by Charles Edenshaw, before 1908.*

porary works from all eight major coast tribal groups — Haida, Tlingit, Tsimshian, Northern and Southern Kwakiutl, Bella Coola, Westcoast and Coast Salish, are displayed and contrasted to show the evolution of styles and traditions.

The "traditional" pieces were objects produced before the time of European contact in the late eighteenth century for use by the Indian peoples themselves. The production of curio art — works made for sale to the European and North American collector and curio markets — was initially an incidental activity for most professional artists, but later

became an important source of income as economic and social conditions changed. Therefore, these transitional works often served as the link between the traditional art of the past and the contemporary artist.

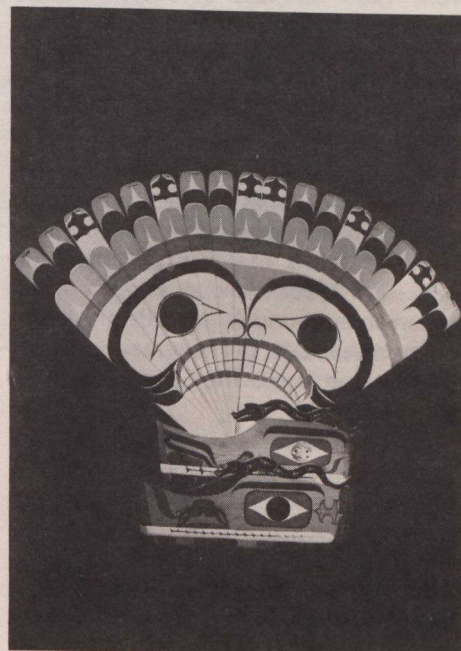
### Contemporary art

The show celebrates the renewed vigor of northwest coast Indian art in the past 20 years by presenting a large group of specially commissioned contemporary pieces. Drawing upon the bold colour, elegant form and dynamic expression of the rich cultural heritage, each artist re-interprets the myths and symbols of the Northwest Coast legacy.

*The Legacy* was the first large-scale exhibition of the northwest coast Indian art to be organized in British Columbia for display overseas. It was on display at the 1980 Edinburgh Festival, and was later shown in Yorkshire, England. The showing at the Museum of Anthropology is the opening in North America for the exhibition.

*The Legacy* exhibition was produced from works in collections of the British Columbia Provincial Museum. The main funding for the exhibit was provided by the British Columbia government, National Museums of Canada and the University of British Columbia's Museum of Anthropology.

A richly illustrated catalogue containing colour reproductions and informative essays on the art and artists has also been produced for the exhibition.



*Lightning snake and sun transformation headdress by Tim Paul, 1980.*