

PENN COVE WATER FESTIVAL QUILT: Inspiration for Roger Purdue's Water Festival T-shirt designs

<p>1994 The five species of Puget Sound salmon, in a "Spirits of the Salmon" wheel, represent the spirits of times past and present, and the cyclical nature of life. Roger Purdue designed and carved the salmon wheel, now in the Museum.</p>	<p>1996 This image captures the life force driving the sockeye salmon back to its spawning ground, and its dynamic strength with one purpose, the survival of the next generation.</p>	<p>2001 This design honors the skeletal remains of "Rosie," the gray whale on display in the wharf. The northward migration of gray whales is a sign that spring is upon us, and the Water Festival will soon be at hand.</p>	
<p>1995 Vancouver Island's First Peoples journeyed by canoe to early water festivals. Roger remembers them passing, with Mount Baker in the distance. Another memory is Orca "cooking off" barnacles on Parker's Reef at low tide.</p>	<p>2002 A filigree of flora and fauna signifying the web of life of the near shore, this design illustrates the fragile tapestry essential for the health of our oceans. The dogfish, salmon, sculpin, crab, octopus and others are not looking AT us – they are looking TO us for protection.</p>	<p>2003 "Coppers" predate the age of exploration and were a symbol of a chief's wealth. The eagle, the Orca and the salmon are parts of our legacy, for "When eagles eat seagulls and crows because there are no salmon, we have thrown away our legacy."</p>	
<p>1997 The Orca body is split in this image, a style with origins in traditional art of the North Coast natives. Roger goes further, to combine the dorsal fin with totem pole elements.</p>	<p>2008 A split image gray whale with varied form lines, the trout's-head eye, U-shapes and split U-shapes, and the order of the colors, demonstrates traditional north coast native design.</p>	<p>1999 For the wetlands theme that year, Roger used the frog, a symbol of fertility, a promise of spring, and an animal that visibly transforms its appearance.</p>	<p>2004 The peaceful tradition of the moon somehow gave way to this "wild man of the woods," which Roger has been called. He made it a self-portrait, wrapped in his totem, the Raven.</p>
<p>2006 This image is a tribute to the late Carol Peralta, the other half of the creative team that made Roger's silk-screened prints possible. Carol screen-printed the Water Festival T-shirts through 2005.</p>	<p>2005 Roger's Tsimshian maternal grandmother told him the family totem was The Raven. When he questioned her more to learn the history, she bristled and said she had always known it. "The Raven is my totem . . . this I know."</p>	<p>1998 A recurring theme in Roger's art, as in nature, is the life force of salmon returning to spawn. Here the dancing spirits within the salmon are poised to make their way through the rapids that lie before them.</p>	
<p>1993 Roger's first design, for the second Water Festival, is two whales twisted to the shape of a water droplet. Who knew "Continuing the Tradition" would mean he would still be designing for each Water Festival, over 20 years later.</p>	<p>2000 The "ball of Orca" grew from a tiny sketch into a very untraditional image. Roger broke boundaries with many peering "eyes," dorsal fins piercing the border, and three overlapping Orca figures.</p>	<p>2007 Once abundant, and a proud totemic symbol, the dogfish, or sand shark, has been fished nearly to extinction. It was valued for its roughly textured skin, which was used like sandpaper to polish and finish carvings.</p>	

Quilt was sewn by Cheryl Greider Bradkin in 2010. using Benve Weber's Water Festival T-shirt collection

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