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Rick Bartow (Mad River Wiyot), 1946-2016



Photo by Joe Cantrell, courtesy of Froelick Gallery.

The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian joins the art world and Indian Country in mourning the passing of artist Rick Bartow (Mad River Wiyot). Bartow's drawings, prints, paintings and sculpture have graced the National Museum of the American Indian inside and out. His work has been featured in numerous exhibitions at both of the museum's locations (Washington and New York) including *Continuum: 12 Artists* (2003), *Windows on Collections* (2004-present), *Vantage Point: The Contemporary Native Art Collection* (2010), *Infinity of Nations: Art and History in the Collections of the National Museum of the American Indian* (2010-present), and *Making Marks: Prints from Crow's Shadow Press* (2013-14).

“Rick Bartow’s work defies categorization--his vast oeuvre and his facile genius in every medium elevates Bartow to the highest levels of artistic creativity,” said Kevin Gover, director of the museum. “He will be greatly missed but his spirit lives on through his art.” Bartow’s powerful and haunting works frequently include images of physical, spiritual, and psychological transformation. Birds and other animals, particularly those indigenous to his coastal Oregon home and important in Native oral traditions, also feature prominently.

Bartow has been the recipient of numerous honors including the Eiteljorg Fellowship for Native American Fine Art (2001) and an installation in the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden at the White House, and he is currently the subject of a major traveling retrospective.

Rick Bartow’s contributions to the museum have been profound and generous. The museum’s collection includes 15 of his works, nine of which were gifts from the artist. In 2012, the museum commissioned the artist to create [*We Were Always Here*](#), a pair of monumental carved cedar poles now on permanent view on the northwest corner of the museum’s grounds in Washington, where they welcome visitors approaching from the National Mall. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and his children Booker Bartow, Lily Malcolm Bartow, and Ronda Kossow during their time of mourning.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, April 30th, 2pm, at the Newport Performing Arts Center. All are welcome.



1. Continuum: Rick Bartow (Mad River Wiyot, 1946-2016), *Deer Dancer for Hyacinth*, 2001. Pastel, charcoal and graphite on paper, 72 x 27 in.



2. Vantage Point: Rick Bartow (Mad River Wiyot, 1946-2016), *From the Mad River to the Little Salmon River, or The Responsibility of Raising a Child*, 2004–05. Bronze, ed. 1/10. 99" x 28" x 37." Gift of the artist, Charles Froelick, and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, 2006 (26/5716). Photo by Rich Strode.



3. Making Marks: Rick Bartow (Mad River Wiyot, 1946-2016), *Facing Left Raven*, 2008. Monoprint on paper. Image courtesy of Crow's Shadow Institute of the Arts.



4. *Infinity of Nations*: (Mad River Wiyot, 1946-2016). *Raven*, 2001. Acrylic on masonite board. 26/2872. Photo by NMAI Photo Services.



5. *We Were Always Here*: Monumental cedar wood carvings. Installed September 21, 2012 on the northwest corner of the Washington DC museum overlooking the National Mall. Photo by Katherine Fogden.