

Gifts of the Artists

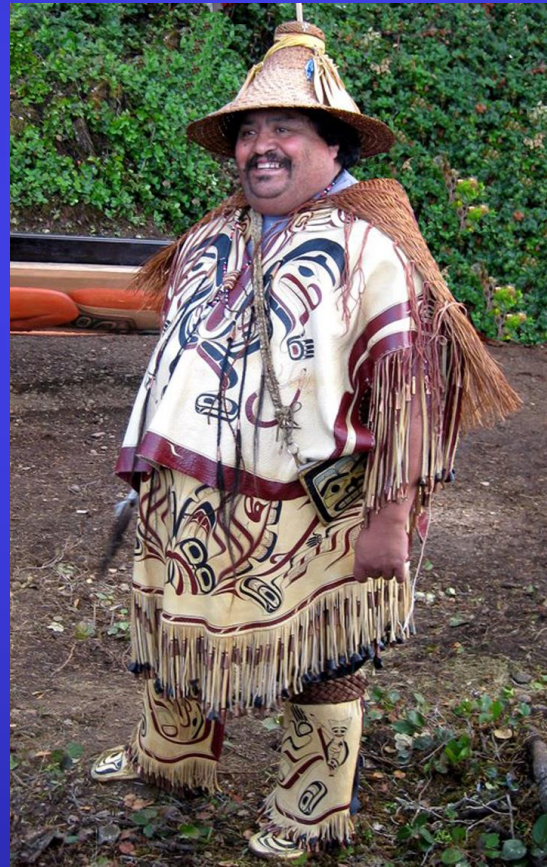
People of the Salish Sea
Whatcom County Library System

Artists:

1. Felix Solomon, Lummi Artist
2. Clarissa Young, Lummi Artist
3. Bill and Fran James, Lummi Artists
4. Louis Gong, Nooksack Artist

Felix Solomon

Master Lummi Carver



Carving cedar



Felix carving a Shovelnose canoe





Moon box



Felix



Frog Box



It's Mine Story Pole

Clarissa Young (Xumps) Lummi Artist





- **Clarissa Young (Xumps)** is a Lummi (Elder) who is an artist.
- She has been creating art most of her life. She uses beads, bone and shells to make jewelry. She also weaves cedar baskets and hats and other items.
- Clarissa also tells stories and teaches extensively on the cedar and times before European influence.



The Loon

*Serigraph
Clarissa Young*

Clarissa also makes a type of artwork called a **serigraph**.

A serigraph is a print that uses a stencil process where a design is which is known as a silkscreen print.

Her bold, bright and beautiful serigraph prints tell stories that connect herself to her Lummi culture. Clarissa sells her serigraphs as prints to hang on the wall and as cards.



Lady on the Moon

Serigraph
Clarissa Young



Smokehouse

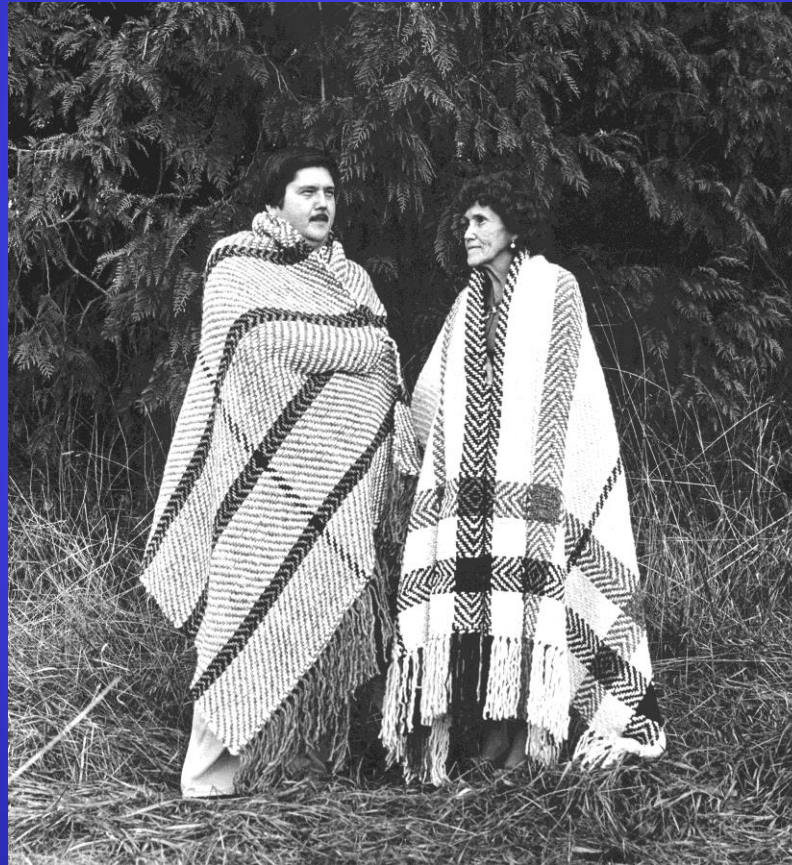
*Serigraph
Clarissa Young*



Xumps Totem

*Serigraph
Clarissa Young*

Fran and Bill James, Lummi Master Weavers and Basketmakers



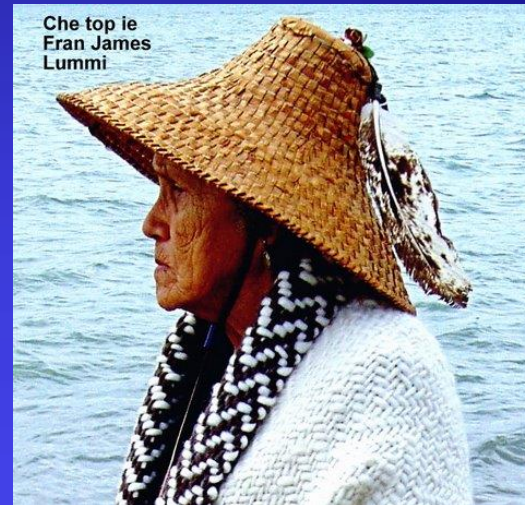
*Photo by Mary Randlett
Courtesy of the Stonington Gallery*

Fran James (*Che top ie*)

Fran James was born and raised at Portage Island in Whatcom County. Fran learned to spin and knit when she was nine years old. Fran comes from a long line of basket weavers, including her grandmother who taught her, and all of her aunts. She learned to gather traditional basketry materials, and has created countless baskets.

Fran is among the most well known basket weavers of the Pacific Northwest today. Her work has inspired many young people to learn how to make baskets and to learn to weave.

Fran tells the young people, "*keep your hands busy,*" and, "*anything a person needs, make it.*" She still lives by these ideas as much as possible.



Bill James (*Tsi'lixw*)

When Bill James was a teenager, his great aunt taught him to weave baskets in the traditional Coast Salish style.

Bill learned to weave wool while studying at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe New Mexico. Learning to weave opened his awareness to the local Coast Salish blanket designs of his home region. Bill has been weaving for over thirty years, and also makes looms and spindle whorls.

Bill is the Hereditary Chief of the Lummi Nation.





- Fran James (*Che top ie*) and her son, Bill James (*Tsi'lixw*) of the Lummi Nation, have worked to revive and continue the traditional skills of weaving and making baskets.
- Bill, with his mother, Fran, still carry on the traditional arts of basketry, weaving and spinning wool through teaching students at the Northwest Indian College. Their baskets and weavings are in many museums.
- In 1991, Fran and Bill both received a Peace and Friendship Award from the Washington State Capitol Museum for their contributions to Lummi culture.

Weaving: Wool blankets



Weaving: Baskets

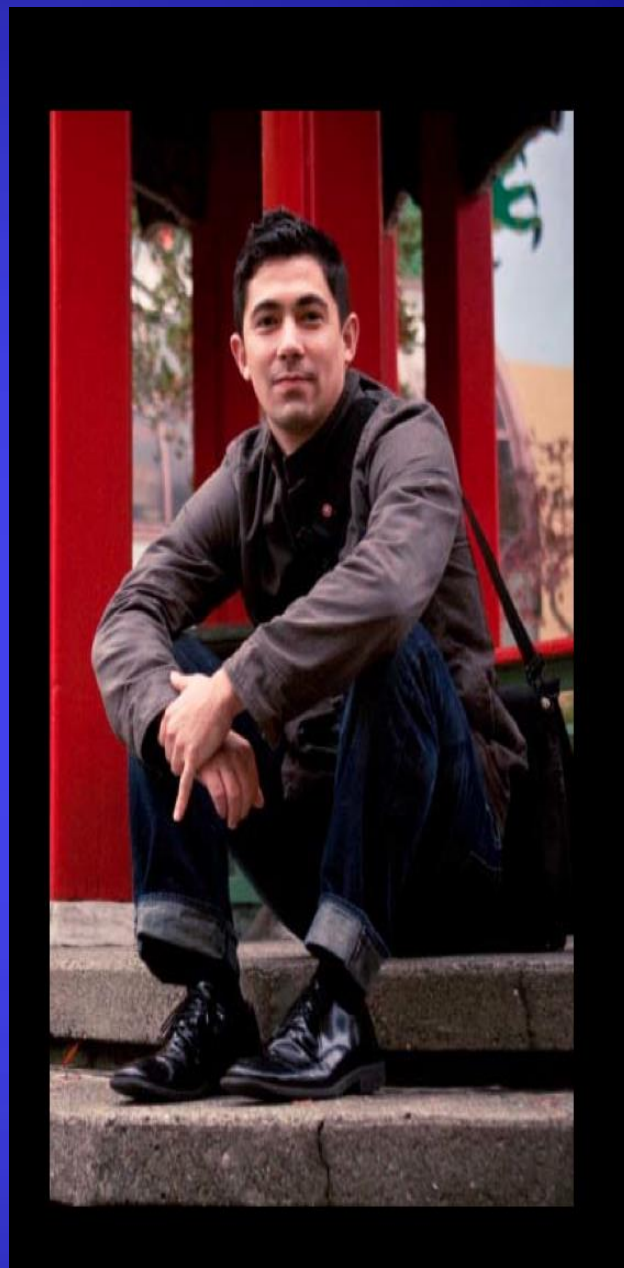


Weaving:

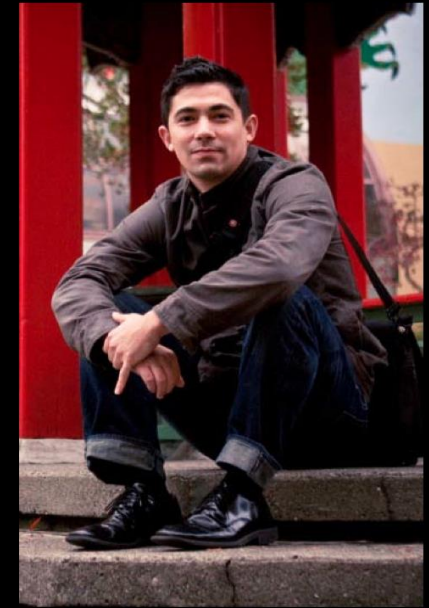
Cedar hat



Louie Gong, Nooksack Artist



Biography Louie Gong is an educator, activist, and artist who was raised by his grandparents in the Nooksack tribal community. He is the past President of MAVIN, co-developer of the Mixed Heritage Center, and a former child and family therapist. Louie is also the founder of Eighth Generation, through which he merges traditional Coast Salish art and icons from popular culture to make strong statements about identity, such as his highly sought-after, hand-drawn custom shoes. By choosing the name "Eighth Generation", Louie intends that respect for the previous seven generations and a spirit of giving back is imbedded in his work. Louie's latest creation is called "Mockups", a DIY design toy based on his work with youth and his desire to make the experience of personalizing a pair of shoes more accessible.



Louie is proud to have represented his family and community through keynote level presentations and custom shoe workshops around the world, as well as in media such as NBC Nightly News, The New York Times, MSNBC.com, and Indian Country Today. His unique merger of art and activism is the subject of UNRESERVED: the work of Louie Gong, a Longhouse Media film that is currently screening at prestigious film festivals around the world, including Festival De Cannes and National Geographic's All Roads Film Festival.

Websites

<http://www.eighthgeneration.com>

<http://www.getmockups.com>

Vans Shoe: *Wolf Chuck*



Yellow Cedar skateboard: *Dog Deck*



Vans shoes: *Frogs*



Photo credits

- Felix Solomon
- Clarissa Young
- Stonington Gallery
- Mary Randlett
- Louis Gong