

## AUTHENTIC MORRISSEAU

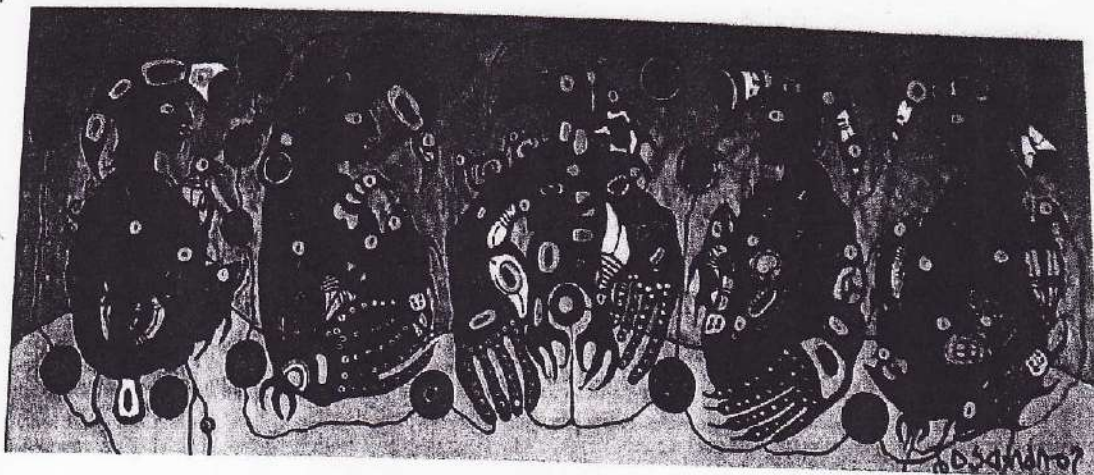


Man Changing into Thunderbird (6 panels) / 1977 / 60.5 x 49.5 (each) / Art of Norval Morrisseau p. 140-141

## INFERIOR COUNTERFEIT



Shaman Teaching Thunderbird People / 1977 / 61 x 169 / Gallery on the Lake / Collection of James White



July , 2 , 2008

James White

Norval Morrisseau

Acrylic on Canvas

Thunderbird Teaching Shaman People

Excellent

Front Cree, Back English

69 x 169 5Ft 1" x 14ft 1"


1977

\$ 190 000 Canadian

Marlowe J. Goring Owner/Appraiser.

Qualicum Frameworks Gallery

673 Fir Street ~ Qualicum Beach, B.C. , V9K 1T2 ~ 250.752.7350

 The 49 originals and 12 prints are the private collection of Jim White

10-14-08

## Morrisseau art splashes gallery

### Collection of Norval Morrisseau work on display and for sale at Gallery on the Lake

BUCKHORN - Surrounded by the works of his father - Canadian icon Norval Morrisseau - at the Gallery on the Lake in Buckhorn, Christian Morrisseau feels at home.

"With the colour and spirit of my father all around it feels like being home again," Christian said Saturday at the opening of the exhibit and sale of about 50 original Norval Morrisseau works of art.

The show will run until July 25 and may be the last chance for collectors to get their hands on these famous works.

Not too many galleries can host an exhibit of this size, said owner Esther Inglis.

"We are able to do it justice.

"It may never happen again. This truly is a once in a lifetime exhibit," she said.

**The 49 originals and 12 prints are the private collection of Jim White.**

The pieces are for sale "so they can enrich the lives of others," he said.

"And so people can have a piece of Canadian culture and history."

Norval lived at the Whetung farmhouse in Buckhorn from 1979 to 1982. He died Dec. 4, 2007.

The Gallery on the Lake was the perfect setting for the exhibit, Christian said.

"There's a big difference having the pieces in a gallery in the forest than in the city," he said.

"This is where the colours, the inspiration and all the healing came from."

Being an artist himself, Christian said his father's work brings the spiritual world of nature to the masses.

"When we look at nature we see the physical but also through the physical and into the spiritual. And we try to bring that spirituality to the canvas for the world to see."

Each piece is a teaching, said gallery patron Josh Crough.

"There's great insight into what we can't see but should understand and respect," he said pointing to a painting titled 'Good and Evil Battle for Life.'

"The paintings draw you to them and feed the soul," said gallery guest Krow Fisher.

Having so many historical works of art in one place was incredible for Marina Crough.

"It really needs to be appreciated," she said.

Norval was a Member of the Order of Canada and is known as the originator of the "Woodland" style.

He also held the Eagle Feather, the highest honour awarded by the Assembly of First Nations.

Norval's "x-ray" style reveals the spirit and physicality of humans and animals using black, stylized lines and vivid colours.

His works have been showcased around the world, but for Inglis the show at the Gallery on the Lake brought the pieces home.

"The show piece was painted in Buckhorn," she said.

Titled 'Shaman Teaching Thunderbird People,' the highlight of the exhibit stretches more than three metres across a wall in the entrance to the gallery.

"The painting came home," Inglis said.

Posted By JAMES NEELEY, Examiner Staff Writer

## "Nothing for the artwork, nothing, nothing, nothing" - Jim White, an "avid collector" of Morrisseau

10-15-08

### Relatives quarrel over Ojibwa artist's remains

TORONTO - Norval Morrisseau was controversial as an artist, husband, father and friend during his 76-year lifespan, and he's proving to be just as controversial in death as a family feud has broken out over what to do with his remains.

The Ojibwa painter, who died Tuesday after a battle with Parkinson's disease, was expected to be cremated this weekend by a Toronto funeral home and his ashes subsequently "gifted" among various relatives.

But yesterday, four of Mr. Morrisseau's seven children paid a visit to the open casket and afterward, through a lawyer, announced that "plans, discussions about cremation ... have been put on hold."

In a brief interview, one of Mr. Morrisseau's sons, Christian, also an artist, said the "main purpose in our coming here today is to try to take [the artist's] remains back home for a proper, traditional, ceremonial burial."

Home, in this instance, is Keewayin in Northern Ontario where Mr. Morrisseau's estranged wife, Harriet Kakagemic, dead since 1995, is buried.

The intention not to cremate contravenes the wishes of Gabor Vadas, who for the past 20 years has functioned as Mr. Morrisseau's guardian, business manager and "adopted" (although not legally so) son, and of one of Mr. Morrisseau's younger brothers, 64-year-old Bernard of Thunder Bay, Ont.

It was Mr. Vadas who announced Mr. Morrisseau's death to the media this week and who, upon receipt of the coroner's report, arranged for the transfer of his body to the Toronto funeral home. In 1999, he and his wife, Michele, moved Mr. Morrisseau, a B.C. resident since late 1987, from White Rock to Nanaimo on Vancouver Island, the artist's primary residence in his declining years.

In a telephone interview last evening, Mr. Vadas declared that Mr. Morrisseau's "wish is to be cremated; that's what it was. ... His spirituality believes he needs to be cremated and that his body should be reduced to ashes so no spirits or nothing weird goes in there. In shaman practice, they put him on the pyre, they put all his stuff on and they burn it. So what's the dispute? I'm willing to share ashes with people but have people, for one, come by themselves to me instead of lawyering up."

"I am his son and I'm entitled to certain things," Mr. Vadas declared, complaining about "the bunch of really weird people traipsing in and out all day, taking photographs, in his casket. Please ... I wouldn't even dare to defile him that way."

Bernard Morrisseau, who flew into Toronto yesterday, said his brother told him years ago he wanted to be cremated and his ashes, except for a small portion placed in a memorial, "spread all over Lake Nipigon." That's near where the artist was born, the oldest of five brothers, to a family of trappers and hunters.

Mr. Morrisseau, known to his friends as Barney, also showed a witnessed legal document, signed by his older brother in Toronto in June, 1984, seemingly giving him power of attorney with rights extending beyond the artist's death. "I just want to put a stop to everything, to freeze everything," Mr. Morrisseau said, until he's spoken with a lawyer. He said he last saw his brother two years ago.

It's unclear whether the painter drafted a will before his death. Mr. Vadas would neither confirm nor deny its existence ("I don't know how far we can go with that"), only saying he had "documentation and my legal people."

Kimberly Murray, executive director for Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto and the lawyer for the three brothers and one sister (David, Christian, Eugene and Victoria), said she couldn't "comment on that right now. ... We have no legal documentation. Whether there's a will, whether it's a valid will, we don't know."

It's known that the painter had very limited contact with his children for at least two decades - the four on hand yesterday only heard of his demise from media reports, according to one source - but there's disagreement as to how much of this was Mr. Morrisseau's volition.

**Jim White, an "avid collector" of Morrisseau from Caledon, Ont., and an acquaintance of the artist's children, acknowledged outside the funeral home yesterday that the brothers and one sister "received nothing from their father" during his lifetime, "nothing for the artwork, nothing, nothing, nothing." At the same time, he said at least four of the children "have told me the same story," namely that the painter wished "to be buried next to his wife. ... I wasn't there. But they seem like pretty honest people to me."**

How long the fate of Mr. Morrisseau's corpse will be contested remains unclear. "We've been advised that the body will be held until we can come to an agreement or a legal resolution," said Ms. Murray, who added neither she nor her clients had met with Mr. Vadas. "We haven't worked out any kind of agreement at this point. Right now the family just wants to get through today ... and then we'll see what steps we can do to have an agreement in place."

Said Mr. Vadas: "I am open to talks with anybody ... I always have been. But unfortunately, they weren't talking to me. Nobody asked me to come to a private room [After viewing their father's open casket, the Morrisseau siblings retired to a room in the funeral home for talks] and sit down and be civil with me."

Family and friends were expected to gather again at the funeral home last night for a traditional "smudging" (smoke) ceremony performed by a native elder.