

# Kevin Paul

## Biography

Kevin "Wah lee hub" Paul (born 1960), enrolled tribal member, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community; resident of Swinomish and La Conner, Washington, USA. Kevin is a master carver of contemporary and traditional Native American carvings. Kevin taught his artistic craft in the La Conner School District from 1994 until Covid. He has taught at the Museum of Northwest Art. He currently teaches native design, painting, drum-making and carving at Didgwalic Wellness Center in Anacortes, Washington. Kevin and his art have been featured on KCTS 9/Seattle. A second documentary on his work was shown on Lynette Jennings Design/Discovery Channel, which aired in 27 countries for nine years. His local art is prominently collected and viewable at the Town of La Conner, the La Conner School District, and the La Conner Boys and Girls Club. Art shows are numerous, including a retrospective show in 2013 at the Skagit County Historical Museum. His work is included in locally published books: "The Barn Shows" and the "In the Valley of Mystic Light." Recent works include an 18 foot, old-growth, red cedar story pole for the La Conner Swinomish Library, completed with his apprentice, Camas Logue.

## Artist Statement

An age old teaching is woven into this carving. Protect your mother, protect the earth. Women are sacred. Women are the bearers of our culture, our way of life. In our native society, women can be warriors. Genocide occurs when one group or people try to obliterate another people, by murder. Just a few generations back, the settlers across the Swinomish Slough would paddle across, in the darkness of night. Whether at the hand of one or more, men murdered members of my family, while they slept. A woman and a child. This hostility towards natives, our family has experienced, even during my school years in La Conner. It is known that non-native men would attack and hurt our women and go unpunished until the Violence Against Women Act was passed by the US Congress. You know the adage, "be good to yourself"; I will add, "be good to our women."