

October 11, 2011

Voyage to Haida Gwaii: Three painters on Canada's Queen Charlotte Islands

Join painters Erik Sandgren and Kathryn Cotnoir of Aberdeen and Dee Vadnais from Oregon for a presentation on their recent voyage to Haida Gwaii, also called the Queen Charlotte Islands, and the artwork that journey inspired. All three landscape painters drew and painted on site using acrylics and watercolors. Sandgren will project photos of the landscapes, the artists at work, and the paintings that show how the artists interpreted what they saw.

The presentation will be at the [Aberdeen Timberland Library](#) on Saturday, October 29 from 3 to 4 p.m. The Friends of the Aberdeen Timberland Library will provide refreshments.

Following the general path of renowned Northwest artist, Emily Carr, the painters traveled aboard the vessel Blue Pteron with skipper Paul Seamons up the west coast of Vancouver Island to Barclay and Nootka Sounds to the islands off the northern coast of British



Columbia. They brought with them an informed regard for the vitality of Northwest Coast formline art and the ongoing culture of the Haida people.

Formline art is most closely associated with the traditional work of the Haida, Tlingit, and Tsimshian cultures. It is distinguished by the use of lines and characteristic shapes called ovoids, U forms and S forms. Totem pole carvings are the most well-known examples. Sandgren explains further: “Applicable to any and all objects, it seems to arise out of the materials and spirit of the waters off the Northwest coasts. It is a flexible style that admits great nuance, individual innovation and sensibility, and high craft.”

The Aberdeen Timberland Library is at 121 E Market Street, Aberdeen. For more information, please contact the library at (360) 533-2360 or go to www.TRL.org.