

THE WORLD IS AS SHARP AS A KNIFE

THE LOGIC OF HAIDA ART

The Art in Haida Logic

Preface

Introduction

To Begin at the End 1.

The Culmination of Haida Art. *One work by AE. (The Box)* Four works of Charles Edenshaw, and four myths.

The Structure in the Meaning

2. A Structural Approach to the Art. *Structural regularities in Haida art*

Opposites halves the same Both things at once -

- a) Structural oppositions in artifact types. *Opposites are Halves*
- b) Iconographic oppositions. Alter egos and singularities. *Alter ego*
- c) Paradox in Haida art and culture. *The tortured witch. Raven the Paradox*
- d) Double paradoxes, the search for the quaternary. *Paradox redoubled*
- e) Sexual symbolism. The double twist. *The box of One, and...*

3. Haida Sculpture: Meaning in Three Dimensions. *Yet Another Dimension*

Then that is Now Since - making nonsense -

- a) The Raven Rattle, prime object of NWC sculpture (c. 1790)
- b) Argillite 1, Panel pipes (c. 1820-40).
- c) Houseposts.
- d) Spoons. *The Self-Denying Bear*
- e) Frontal poles, and the structures of crests. *Wiping Woman*
- f) Matched pairs and other forms. *Rattles.*
- g) *The logic of masks and portraits.*

Two that is One

4. Haida Painting: Meaning in Two Dimensions. *as plane geometry*

The Other Square but of dimension Halving that is Doubling

- a) The elements as halves. *The Double Halves of Haida art*
- b) The structure: halving and doubling.
- c) The true circle. *The oval, The Salmon trout head. Formspace*
- d) Gonaqadet, the Copper, and the Edenshaw chests. *Mighty Mouse*
- e) Housefronts, the Dragonfly Screen, Chilkat Blankets. *Wahie Snag*
- f) Pure 2d on dishes: frozen visual music. *Meaning is form. Generalizations*
- g) Relations between 2d and 3d.
- h) The Raven Screens.
- i) One Raven Screen: the iconic meanings in flat design. *- cognitive map*
- j) AE's box, the ultimate analysis. *The Edenshaw Solution*

5. Frontlets, and the complete Halait Outfit. *The Canoe, iconic perfection*

6. The Logical Problems dealt with in Haida art (and myth)

- a) Panel pipes revisited: what does meaning mean? *Meaning-making nonsense Raven, the Paradox*
- b) The Beak and the Mouth. Life and Death. *The Self-Eating Mouth*
- c) The Two Eyes of Mighty Mouse. Time. *The self-eating eye.*
- d) The Search for the ultimate Singularity. Light. Gravity. Time.

All Things at once that are One

7. Argillite 2: Charles Edenshaw again. Fully explain his pieces. Add Old Man plate, one pole, and one cockle shell. Rodin's Thinker. *Beer Mashed Epitaph on a gravestone*

8. Post-script: A New Beginning. Bill Reid, Robert Davidson. Is the shell empty?