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Aboriginal Capacity Building

B.C. Coast Carved Door Case Study

Chris Gaston, PhD

In partnership with Emily Carr University of Art + Design, Frieda Diesing School of Northwest Coast Art and the Centre for Advanced Wood Products at UBC

Branding Aboriginal art: selling the story!

Vancouver Airport. Susan A. Point, Musqueam, 1995. Western Red Cedar.

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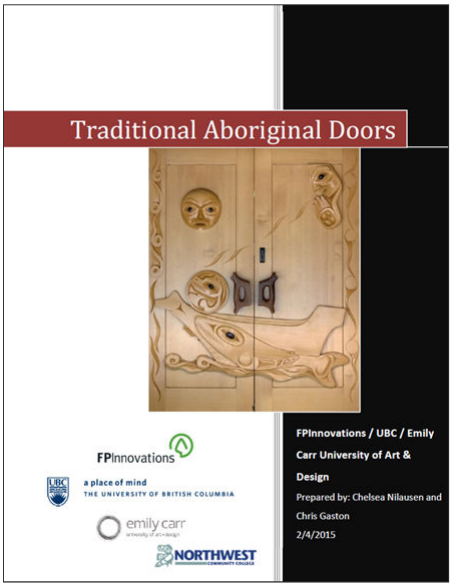
A partnership approach



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WRC harvesting: Nuxalk Nation lands at Bella Coola, BC

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Nuxalk Nation WRC lumber milling and kiln drying

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WRC edge-glued door panels: the canvas

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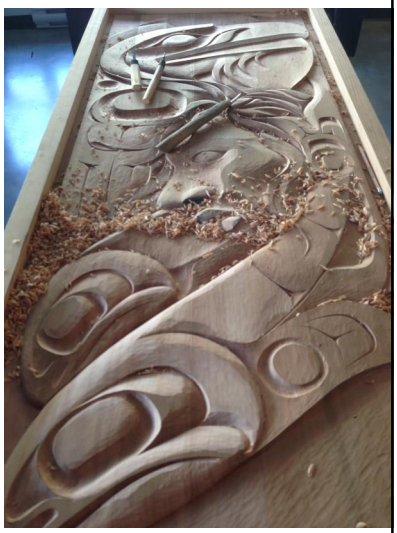
Door carving at the Aboriginal Gathering Place, Emily Carr University of Art + Design

Door carving at the Aboriginal Gathering Place, Emily Carr University of Art + Design



Carving instructor Xwalacktun (Squamish / Kwakwaka'wakw)

WRC door panels, near completion

WRC door panels, near completion

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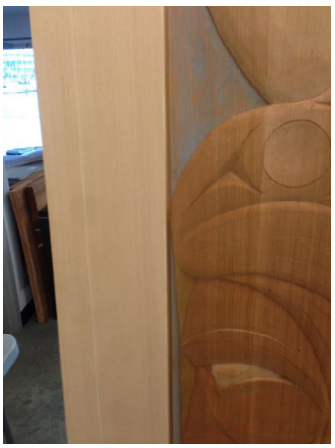
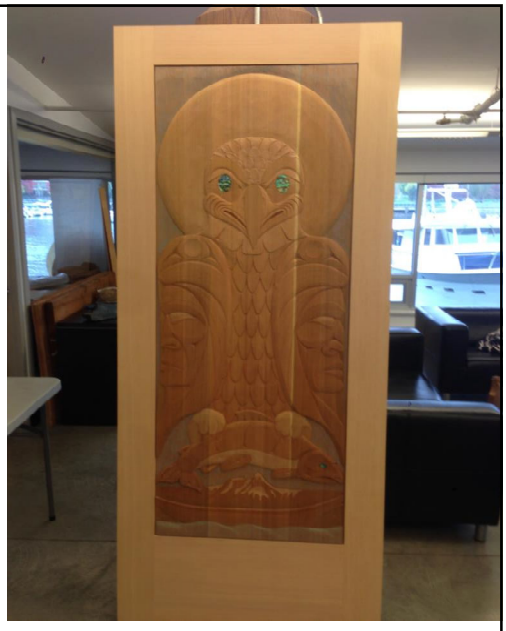
WRC door panels, finished door





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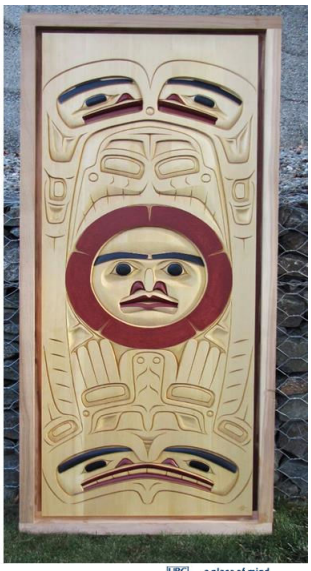
Yellow cedar door panels



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Ready for exhibition

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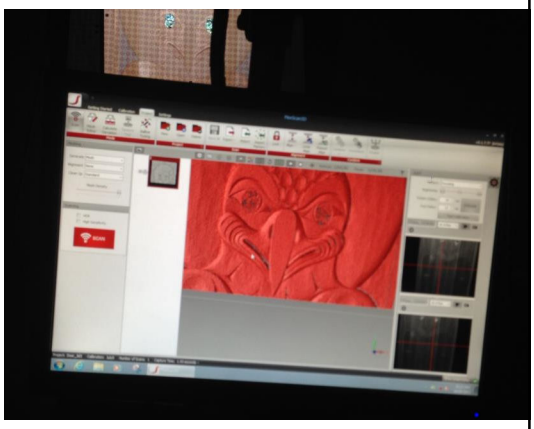
Door panel scanning for CNC reproduction



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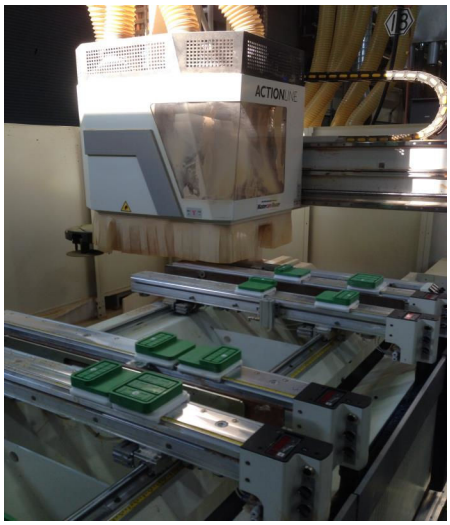
The making of “limited edition prints”



UBC-CAWP CNC router

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Opening Doors gala and exhibition

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Opening Doors, the Roundhouse, Yaletown

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Opening Doors, the Roundhouse, Yaletown

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Opening Doors, the Roundhouse, Yaletown

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Wood Innovation and Design Centre, Sept 18, 2015

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UNECE / European Forestry Week, Nov 02-06, 2015

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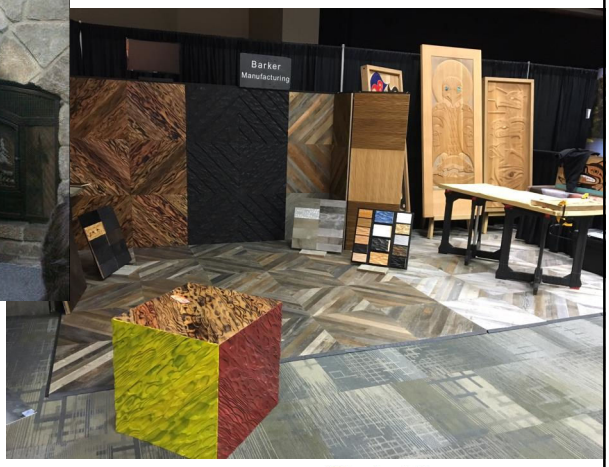
BC Tech Summit, Jan 18-19, 2016

Parliament Building, Ottawa

BC Wood Global Buyers Mission



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Media attention

https://youtu.be/NL4Nh7kaERY

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Media attention

http://www.ctvnews.ca/entertainment/aboriginal-artists-carve-out-new-market-with-high-tech-tool-1.2817434

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Governor General visit March 03, Aboriginal Gathering Place, Emily Carr University of Art + Design

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Japan Home Show

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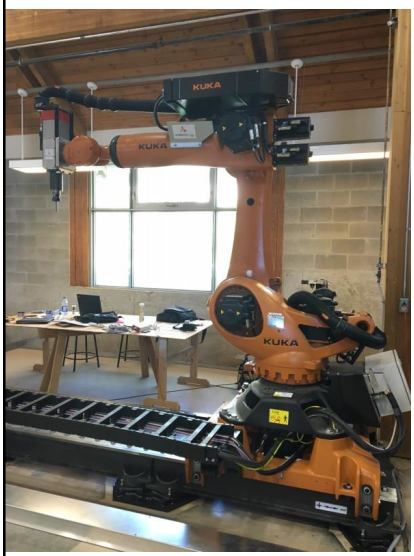
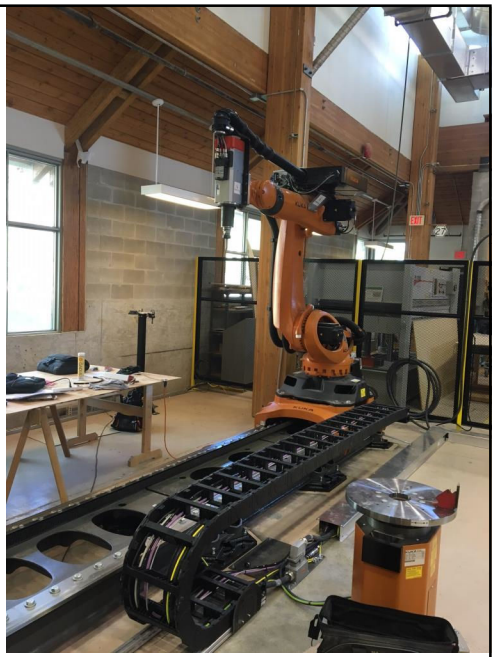
Robot technology





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3-D carving

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In memoriam… William Callaghan, Tlingit First Nation

February 1, 1983 – April 9, 2016

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