

BC Nisga'a Master Carver

Alver C. Tait

**Simo'ogit Gadeelip (Anchor):
a Hereditary Chief in the House of Luuya'as**

Alver C. Tait resides in Gitlaxdamix, a Nisga'a Nation Community near Terrace, BC. Among the accomplishments of this internationally known artist are seven huge totempoles in BC's Nass River Communities and one in Vienna, Austria.

In Paris, France, the artist was invited to do a two-week workshop in the city's oldest Fine Arts College about how our Nisga'a art relates to Nisga'a culture. Alver shared the origins of the Txeemsim Mask story—Nisga'a are known as Txeemsim's people—and the humorous side of the Conceited Man Mask story. Alver and the students sang Nisga'a chants and the students performed mask dances.

Alver presented similar workshops in Japan and Turkey. In England, Alver restored parts of an old Nisga'a Luuya'as totempole and helped the British Museum raise the totempole in their Welcome Trust Gallery.

Alver carves Nisga'a canoes, ceremonial masks, and many collections used by the Chiefs and Matriarchs, such as staffs, bowls, spoons, headdresses, and regalias. He also creates exquisite gold and silver jewellery and is known for his wall hangings. ▲

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Alver wearing a Beaver Ceremonial Robe and carving of Beaver on cedarbark Ringhat



Hayatkws (copper shield): top figures are Eagle and Wolf; bottom figures are Killer Whale and Raven, the crests of the Nisga'a.



Nisga'a Man Mask, decorated with elements of Nisga'a designs



Nisga'a Beaver Headdress, inlaid with abalone shells and sea lion whiskers