

## **"Attaining Balance Within"** by Lee Wallace and Edwin De Witt

These twelve and one-half foot, red cedar totems were created by Lee Wallace, a Haida Alaskan Native from Ketchikan, and his Tlingit apprentice carver, Edwin De Witt.

The totems are classic Haida style carvings of an Eagle and a Raven in full circular 360 degrees. The artist states these carvings "...are a resplendent reminder of the convictions and power of the people responsible for their own destinies and compliment the architect's vision of dignity, authority and permanence. In Haida tradition, from childhood to adulthood, heirs understand related consequences for actions and behaviors. If an individual tilts the equilibrium, the offset affects society. The judicial system helps individuals and determines arrangements closely resembling a satisfying or harmonious position between extremes."

The Eagle and Raven represent the refined sense of balance which governs the clans, denotes integrity and adheres to the laws of reciprocity. In Haida tradition, ancient stories have echoed through generations to the most present times. These stories are retold to heirs needing understanding of natural and societal rules. The Eagle and Raven carvings offer a sense of balance because they are equally powerful clan emblems of greatness, perpetuation, edification, and cultural significance.



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