

Curriculum Vitae

Michael D. Blackstock RPF, C.Med., MA

Michael D. Blackstock (Gitx̱san name: Ama Goodim Gyet) is a writer and visual artist. He has written over 20 publications, and produced over a dozen limited edition northwest coast art prints. Michael is currently the artist in residence at the Echo Valley Ranch and Spa, Jesmond, BC, where he carved faces on living trees, as spiritual guardians for the water springs. Michael has a Master of Arts degree in First Nations Studies from the University of Northern British Columbia in 1997. He is also professional forester, and a chartered mediator. Michael was mentored by his uncle Walter Harris as a northwest coast carver. Michael served on the UNESCO Expert Advisory Group on Water and Cultural Diversity from 2008-2012 and worked with youth artists around the world to curate an art project on water.

A member of the house of Geel, Michael Blackstock of Kamloops is a carver, visual artist, poet forester and mediator. Blackstock has a Master of Art degree in First Nations Studies and he has served as a member of the UNESCO-IHP Expert Advisory Group on Water and Cultural Diversity.

Blackstock's recent book *Oceaness* is a book of social commentary that includes poems, essays and art works. It includes his new theory of Blue Ecology which was developed with Elders, by interweaving their perspective with that of Western Science. The themes of this book are: water; ecology; oral history; human rights; music; and humour.

Visual Artist:

Michael began exploring his First Nations heritage through visual art in 1986. He is a Northwest coast Gitx̱san artist. Michael has studied under the Gitx̱san Master Carver, Walter Harris, who won the Governor General's award for his artistic contribution to Canada. Michael expresses his vision through paintings, carvings and photography. Pacific Editions of Victoria, has printed most of Michael's work over the past 30 years, and he has sold his prints in galleries which include: Hills, Inuit, Ksan, Prince George Friendship Centre, and Hummingbird. A summary of juried art shows and commissions listed below.

- Look 1992, Victoria Regional Art Show: Honourable mention;
- Sooke Fine Art Show 1993: Two pieces selected;
- Central Interior Regional Art Show 1995: Honourable Mention;
- Images and Objects BC Provincial Show 1995;
- Circumpolar Art Show, Prince George Art Gallery, 1995;
- Central Interior Regional Art Show 1996: Honourable mention;
- Selected artist in the BC Lottery Corporation Art Contest 1998;

- First Peoples Collaborative Exchange Program 1999;
- Selected artist for the Kamloops Art Gallery “Solstice Art Show” poster 2002.
- Commissioned logo from the Entymological Society of Canada 2003
- Commisioned logo for the Canadian Tree Improvement Society 2004
- Michael was a trustee on the Kamloops Art Gallery board for six years.
- Echo Valley Resort Commission of a number of carved masks (2011-12)
- Commisioned logo for Entymological Society of America (2018)

Publication list:

“The Aborigines Report: A Case Study in the Slow Change of Colonial Social Relations.” *The Canadian Journal of Native Studies* XX:1 (2000): 67:94.

Faces in the Forest: First Nations Art Created on Living Trees. McGill-Queen’s University Press. 2001.

“Water: A First Nations Spiritual and Ecological Perspective.” *BC Journal of Ecosystems and Management* 1.1(2001): 54–66.

“Water-based ecology: A First Nations Proposal to Repair the Definition of an Ecosystem.” *BC Journal of Ecosystems and Management* 2.1(2002): 7–12.

“Mediation: It’s a Card Game, Isn’t It?” Mediate.com. 2003.
<http://www.mediate.com/articles/blackstockM.cfm>

“First Nations Perspectives on the Grasslands of the Interior of British Columbia.” *Journal of Ecological Anthropology* 8, no. 1 (2004): 24-46

“Blue Ecology: A Cross-cultural Ecological Approach to Reconciling Forest-Related Conflicts.” *BC Journal of Ecosystems and Management* 6.2(2005): 39-54.

Salmon Run: A Florilegium of Aboriginal Ecological Poetry. Kamloops, BC: Wyget Books, 2005.

“Trust Us: Trust Us: A Case Study in Colonial Social Relations Based on Documents Prepared by the Aborigines Protection Society, 1836-1912.” In *With good Intentions: Euro-Canadian and Aboriginal Relations in Colonial Canada*. Eds. Celia Haig-Brown and D. Nock. Vancouver, BC UBC Press, 2006.

“Blue Ecology and Climate Change.” *BC Journal of Ecosystems and Management* 9.1 (2008): 12-16.

"Blue Ecology, What is Water? An Indigenous Perspective." *Water and Culture* [Proceedings of a session at the 5th World Water Forum hosted by TURKKAD (Turkish Women's Cultural Organization) and ISKI (Istanbul Water and Sewage Administration)]. (March 2009): 28-30.

“Blue Ecology and Climate Change: Interweaving Cultural Perspectives on Water: an Indigenous Case Study.” In *The Role of Hydrology in Water Resources Management (Proceedings of a symposium held on the island of Capri, Italy, October 2008)*. IAHS Publ. 327, 2009: 306-313. http://iahs.info/redbooks/a327/iahs_327_0306.pdf. [11 January 2010].

“Where is the Trust: Using Trust-based Mediation for First Nations Dispute Resolution.” *Conflict Resolution Quarterly* 19.1(2010): 9 pages.

Oceaness. Kamloops, BC: Wyget Books, 2010.

“All Behaviour Makes Sense: A Spectrum Approach.” Mediate.com 2010.

<http://www.mediate.com/articles/blackstockM2.cfm>

“Blue Ecology and the Unifying Potential of Water.” In *Water, Cultural Diversity and Global Environmental Change: Emerging Trends, Sustainable Futures*. Eds. B.R. Johnston, L. Hiwasaki, I. Klaver, A. Ramos, and V. Strang, Dordrecht, The Netherlands: UNESCO and Springer SBM, 2012. 132-33.

“Ecologies Panel: Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow: On Poetry and the Environmental Crisis.” In *The Capilano Review*. Vancouver, BC: 3.16: Winter 2012.

“Blue Ecology: A Cross-cultural Ecological Vision for Freshwater.” In *Aboriginal People and Forests Lands in Canada*. Eds. D.B. Tindall, Ronald L. Trosper and Pamela Perrault. Vancouver, BC: UBC Press, 2013. 180-204.

“Rivers Reach the Sea” In *Indigenous Messages on Water* Ed. Juan .G. S. Martinez. Indigenous World Forum on Water and Peace. 2014. 73-76.

“Is it Time for Biocultural Diversity (BCD) Zonation in British Columbia?” *BC Forest Professional* 21.5 (2014): 24-25.

How to Make a Good Decision: A Five Step Guide to Making Everyday Decisions. Wyget Books, 2015.

“Interweaving water: The Incremental Transformation of Sovereign Knowledge into Collaborative Knowledge” In Upcoming pub. *Downstream: Re-imagining Water*. Eds. R. Wong and D. Pagan. Waterloo, ONT.: Wilfred Laurier University Press, 2016. 49-66.