TLINGIT ART

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• First week: overview of art style, introduction to Tlingit society, early art
• Second week: 19th century—from wealth to oppression
• Third week: totem poles—the results of colonization
• Fourth week: contemporary artists—from tradition to innovation
Villages

• Lined up along sand beaches
• Houses made of wood planks
• Extended families
• Exteriors simple
• Interiors dazzling
Art for depicting status, ancestry

• Social organization – moieties, clans, houses
• Opposites – marry, make art, validate claims at potlaches
Potlach

• Usually held to honor a recently deceased person
• Everyone wears regalia
• Singing, dancing, honoring ancestors, presenting art to transform into “at’oow” – a purchased thing.
• Valuables given to opposite guests to validate family claims and new status of objects
Art

• Three and two dimensional
• Three dimensional – often highly naturalistic
• Two dimensional – more abstract, follows rules of organization of elements
2-dimensional elements

Formline – primary and secondary

Ovoid

U-form

Split u-form

Eye form
Europeans come to NWC

1774  Spanish explorers
1791  Russian America Company establishes capital in Kodiak
1796  Russians found post in Yakutat
1799  Alexander Baranov founded settlement near Sitka
FUR TRADE – SEA OTTER PELTS
SITKA BEFORE RUSSIANS ARRIVE, 1793
SITKA DURING RUSSIAN OCCUPATION  1843
BATTLE OF SITKA,
1802, Ray Troll

600 Tlingit destroyed fort, killed 20 Russians, 130 Aleut slaves, ransomed women and children they caught

RUSSIANS RETURN
1804 AND TLINGIT RETREAT

New Archangel (Sitka) established as capitol of Russian Alaska
BARANOV TOOK THIS HELMET IN 1804 IN RETALIATION FOR 1802
CHIEF KATLIAN AND WIFE, 1818

SYMBOL OF PEACE – MEDAL
BRASS HAT GIVEN TO CHIEF KATLIAN BY BARANOVA

COLLECTED IN 1885

REPATRIATED 2003
LABRET – WOMEN’S BODY ART
Marital status
Social status
Insertion by opposite moiety woman
RAVEN’S TAIL ROBE

Mountain goat wood

Geometric designs from basketry

Men say it’s meaningless

Patterns all have meaning

Science of women’s art