

# DONALD ELLIS GALLERY

## PRESS RELEASE

New York, October 19, 2020



1. Headdress Frontlet, Nuxalk, Central Coast, British Columbia, ca. 1870, wood, paint, abalone shell and metal mirror, height 8  $\frac{3}{4}$ "
2. Model Totem Pole, Charles Edenshaw (Tahayghen, 1839-1920), Haida, Haida Gwaii, British Columbia, ca. 1890-1910, argillite, height 16  $\frac{3}{4}$ "
3. Bracelet, Charles Edenshaw (Tahayghen, 1839-1920), Haida, Haida Gwaii, British Columbia, late 19th /early 20th century, silver, width 1  $\frac{1}{2}$ "

## ART TORONTO 2020

**October 31 - November 8, 2020**

Preview Days: October 28 - 30, 2020

Donald Ellis Gallery is pleased to announce its participation in the digital edition of Art Toronto 2020, taking place online and in art galleries across Canada. ArtTO 2020 will be open to the public from October 31 to November 8, with three VIP preview days beginning October 28.

The gallery will present two concurrent exhibitions, showcasing historical Indigenous art from the Northwest Coast and Plains Indian Ledger Drawings from the late nineteenth century.

Highlights will include an exceptionally rare selection of argillite carving and jewellery by the Haida artist Charles Edenshaw (Tahayghen, 1839–1920). Edenshaw is widely considered the most renowned and accomplished artist of the Northwest Coast, and his artistic

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achievements place him as a major figure in Canadian art history. Born in 1839, Edenshaw created work for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous patrons, masterfully adapting Haida design traditions with a sense of modernity that was deeply innovative. Edenshaw's work is highly sought after today, and is represented in the permanent collections of major institutions including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; The Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver; and The National Museum of the American Indian, Washington D.C. The gallery will also feature a selection of bentwood boxes and bowls, model totem poles, and a small but important group of argillite works.

In the second part of the exhibition, the gallery will present a selection of Ledger drawings from Indigenous cultures of the Great Plains. Rarely exhibited in Canada, ledger drawings were an artistic privilege of Plains warriors, a continuation of earlier biographic and pictographic traditions on rock and hide. Ledger drawings offer immediate and eloquent first-person narratives about a specific moment in North American history, spanning the intercultural wars of the mid nineteenth-century into the early years of the Reservation Period. The drawings are both records of actual events and articulate the cumulative acquisition of spiritual power and status. Donald Ellis Gallery has been instrumental in bringing these unique artistic records of North American history to public and institutional attention for the first time since the groundbreaking exhibition *Plains Indian Ledger Drawings* at the Drawing Center, New York, in 1996.

Donald Ellis Gallery will donate 10% of all sales to Canadian organizations addressing the legacy of the Residential School System, supporting Indigenous education and mental health, and promoting Reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians. Clients will have their choice in supporting one of the following charitable organizations:

Indspire

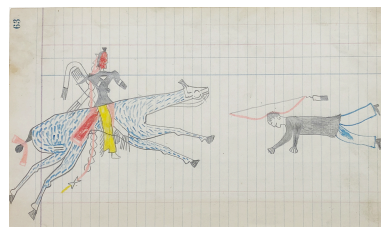
The Legacy of Hope Foundation

The Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund

Donald Ellis Gallery is internationally recognized as the pre-eminent dealer in the field of historical First Nations art. Founded in 1976, the gallery maintains a particular emphasis on the art of the Northwest Coast, Inuit and Plains cultures. While the gallery's origins are in Canada, it has rarely exhibited in the country in the past 20 years.

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For more information and press images please contact us at [info@donaldellisgallery.com](mailto:info@donaldellisgallery.com) or call +1-917-921-0282.



1. Ledger Drawing, Anonymous Artist, Sheridan Ledger Book (pg.23), Southern Cheyenne, Central Plains, ca. 1885, graphite and coloured pencil on lined paper, 5 1/4" x 11 3/4"
2. Ledger Drawings, Attributed to Nah-hi-yurs (Carl Matches, d.1914), Southern Cheyenne, Central Plains, ca. 1875-78, graphite and coloured pencil on lined paper, 6 1/8" x 8 1/4"
3. Ledger Drawing, Attributed to Cedar Tree, Cedar Tree Ledger Book (pg.63), Southern Arapaho, Central Plains, ca. 1880, crayon and graphite on lined paper, 7 1/4" x 12 1/2"

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**Donald Ellis donates five masterpieces by Charles Edenshaw to the Vancouver Art Gallery**