

## MACAULAY & CO. FINE ART

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### Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun

#### *Neo-Totems*

July 16 - August 27, 2016

Opening July 16, 2pm – 4pm

Macaulay & Co. Fine Art is pleased to announce a solo exhibition of new sculptures by Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun. Continuing to push the boundaries of the ovoid as a visual language, Yuxweluptun has assembled wooden ovoids into expanding constellations that range in shape and size.

The ovoid is a rounded oval-rectangular shape and is a key design element that is unique to Northwest Coast art. This shape is an essential building block from which movements flow or design patterns emanate to form a figure. In traditional Northwest Coast design ovoids often represent joints (shoulder, hip, wing, pectoral fin) as well as eye sockets and teeth. Traditionally the ovoid is never depicted as an entity unto itself, but rather an element of a larger design or figure.

Yuxweluptun's use of the ovoid, rather than following traditional iconography, extricates the form in order to speak to land claims, the history of colonization, Aboriginal rights and self-government, environmentalism and Native philosophy. This new play on form engenders tension between carving traditions and their cultural references amidst the contemporary realities of Native Reserve life and the urban Native experience. Both anthropological and modernist epistemologies are at play here as Yuxweluptun breaks with authority and renders an energy of endless possibility.

Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun lives and works in Vancouver, BC. His work is currently on view at the Museum of Anthropology in his retrospective, *Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun: Unceded Territories*. Recent exhibitions include: National Gallery of Canada, *Shine a Light: Canadian Biennial* (2014); Belkin, UBC *WITNESSES: Art and Canada's Indian Residential Schools* (2013); Macaulay Fine Art Gallery, *Indian World* (2013); National Gallery of Canada *SAKAHAN: International Indigenous Art*; Vancouver Art Gallery (2012) *Shore, Forest, and Beyond: Work from the Audain Collection*; Contemporary Art Gallery of Vancouver (2010) *Neo-Native Drawings and Other Works: Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun*; *Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun: Colour Zone*, Plug In ICA, Winnipeg (2001) and *Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun: Born to Live and Die on Your Colonialist Reservation*, Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, Vancouver (1995).