



Making a Chaputs: The Teachings and Responsibilities of a Canoe Maker

Joe Martin

Alan Hoover

Royal BC Museum (Jun 17, 2022)

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The chaputs style of dugout canoe has great cultural importance to Canada's Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations. Joe Martin, a master of the craft with more than sixty such canoes to his name, teams up with museum curator Alan Hoover to document this importance—and the process of creating a canoe—in *Making a Chaputs*.

The slim book includes some of Martin's stories about his work and his father's experiences making canoes, but much of the focus is on describing the process of the craft. That starts with selecting the right tree, finding one that can be cut to make two canoes. The team also measures and shapes the canoe, and uses piles of heated rocks to steam the hollowed interior to make the wood flexible.

Anecdotes and occasional diagrams highlight the level of detail involved in making a chaputs that will be both beautiful and functional. Standout photographs show Martin and his father at work, as well as their impressive finished chaputs. A picture series shows the full canoe-building process, too, underscoring the difficulty and precision of the craft.

Making a Chaputs celebrates a generations-old craft with photographs and instructions.

JEFF FLEISCHER (July / August 2022)

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