

The Crying Totem, 1928





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- She captures the way we think about our relationship to the wilderness.

Oscar Wilde says that art doesn't imitate life, life imitates art. We know BC, just as many people know "London, England," by creative renderings of these places. London is foggy and gloomy because Turner and Constable and others rendered it as such.



Zunoqua of the Cat Village, 1931



- One could argue that Emily Carr “invented” the way we look at British Columbia.
- She captures the way we think about our relationship to the wilderness.
- The way we see the landscape, and the First Nations people, is filtered through her creative lens.

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- Is there any evidence of this in “Kitwancool?”
- Is she given privileges because she is an artist?
- How do the comments of the RCMP affect your reading of the story?

Kitwancool

- Isolated community on Queen Charlotte Islands that refused to accept the reserve system.
- Like Douse, in the 1920s many were imprisoned for not following the new laws of Canada, and for participating in the potlatch, which were banned in 1885.

Kitwancool

- The potlatch was a village gathering in which a family or leader hosted guests in their family's house for a feast.
- One of the main purposes of the potlatch is the re-distribution and reciprocity of wealth.
- It was considered a criminal charge that involved jail time, as it was seen by Indian Affairs as threat to assimilation. Why are they sharing when they have nothing to share?

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- Is there any evidence of this in “Kitwancool?”
- Her depiction of abandoned and decaying poles and villages increasingly devoid of human life imparted the impression of a dying culture.

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- Scholars have charged Carr with **appropriation** because she used First Nations imagery and motifs although, according to Marcia Crosby in “The Imaginary Indian,” “she could not have possibly had a profound understanding of the many nations of people who inhabited the Northwest Coast during her time.”
- This suggests that Carr played a role in the colonial attitudes of British Columbia and Canada.

Appropriation

- To take for one's own use
- Cultural appropriation is "to take someone else's culture to use for your own purpose"
- So when does cultural "borrowing" become ignorant appropriation?
- Does it matter how a person goes about putting to use the knowledge gained from another culture?
- Is it a form of assimilation?



- <http://news.nationalpost.com/arts/emily-carrs-quest-to-record-canadian-indigenous-culture-took-her-to-places-even-the-mounties-dared-not-go>
- Para “her last great journey”

