Legends of the Wolf

Susan Point - 2014 - Edition: 10 - 46cm x 46cm x 5cm
Aluminium, Carved & Painted Red Cedar

Wolves are great hunters that are often associated with the special spirit power a man had to acquire to become a good hunter. There are many wolf legends my people traditionally pass on, these include: Wolf Brothers, Wolf Sisters, and “the Wolf People”, which I will share as part of the inspiration of this creation, and how it symbolizes the call of the wild.

There was once a man who was trying to become an Indian doctor. He spent a great deal of time in the woods bathing everyday cleansing his body and mind.

One day when he was walking in the woods he ran into a pack of wolves. There were so many wolves in the pack that he could not fight them all off so he decided to lie down and pretend he was dead. When the wolves got to where the man was lying they, thinking that he was dead put him on the back of one of the wolves and took him back to their camp. As the wolf was packing the man back to their encampment he got the idea that the man was still alive for as he was running along with the man on his back he heard the man groan every time he was jarred.

After reaching their encampment the wolves put the man down by the fire.

The man then opened his eyes to see the wolves taking of their hides and that they were people. An old man lying beside the fire seen the man that was supposed to be dead open his eyes and told the rest of the wolf people that the man was alive.

After finding out the man was alive they told him he could have anything he desired in return of him not telling anyone of what he just witnessed.

The man told them that he wanted nothing in life but to be a good hunter.

So the wolf people bestowed good luck on the man and he had the best of luck hunting a man could ever hope to have.

I was told this story as a young person, and still to this day I can remember the way my uncle Dominic Point told it to me, focused and resolute. I had no idea at the time that it would stay with me and mean so much to me nearly 50 years on.

Memories play such an integral role to the artwork I create, and I know that this legend has inspired artists for time immemorial.