FACT SHEET

INTRODUCTION TO SISIYUTŁ:

The Sisiyutł is a double–headed serpent and one of the most powerful figures in Kwakwaka'wakw tradition. The Sisiyutł has a frightening snake–like body with two ser–pent heads that extend in opposite directions from the human–like face in the center. Curved horns protrude from each serpent head, and two horns extend from the central human head. Red tongues, often elongated, stick out from each snake–like mouth.

A Sisiyutł has powerful abilities of transformation and can change into a salmon or even a canoe. To touch or see the dangerous Sisiyutł means certain death. However, for some, particularly warriors, Sisiyutł brings supernatural power. A drop of Sisiyutł blood can cause a warrior's skin to turn to armor. The skin of a Sisiyutł is said to make a belt that allows the person wearing it to perform superhuman feats.

The image of Sisiyutł is often displayed as a family crest, and is painted or carved on house fronts and panels, totem poles and ceremonial objects. Sisiyutł can also be a długwe', which is a treasure or supernatural power.