



HAIDA MODERN

The Art and Activism of Robert Davidson

Winner Audience Favourite Vancouver International Film Festival

Winner Audience Favourite Available Light Film Festival

Closing Film at Victoria Film Festival

Opening Film at Kamloops Film Festival

Official Selection – Hot Docs

Winner Best Canadian Film – Montreal FIFA Film Festival

Feature length documentary directed by Charles Wilkinson

Vancouver director **Charles Wilkinson's** (*Haida Gwaii: On the Edge of the World*) new documentary **Haida Modern**, is a portrait of Haida artist **Robert Davidson**, a man whose work has created major change. Davidson has travelled a path from cultural oppression, to become one of the foremost modern artists and cultural activists on the continent.

The feature length documentary won the Most Popular Canadian Documentary Award at last Fall's Vancouver International Film Festival. *Haida Modern* was the Opening Film at the Kamloops Film Festival, the Closing Film at the Victoria Film Festival, the winner of Best Canadian Film at the Montreal FIFA Film Festival and the official selection at many other festivals.

Says Davidson, “*How can we try to imagine a future? Can we create an image to start changing the direction?*”

Haida Modern features intimate observations from the warmly engaging, insightful artist himself. The film includes fellow artists, art historians, politicians, rock stars and family members who describe the impact of Robert’s work, beginning with the carving of his first totem pole in 1969, the first one raised in Haida Gwaii in 100 years. It reveals how this gesture is widely credited with sparking the revival of coastal Indigenous culture. And we see how the art that Robert Davidson and now others are creating is having a deep and lasting impact around the world.

In *Haida Modern* we see people from Alaska to Texas, and from Vancouver to New York displaying Robert’s art in galleries, on their backs, their homes, their bodies. We see how non-indigenous Canadians are flocking to political rallies led by Indigenous leaders and activists. Singing traditional songs, cheering the speeches given in revived indigenous languages, celebrating with traditional foods, and following Indigenous leadership in fighting for environmental sanity. This respectful cooperation between cultures has been central to Robert Davidson’s work.

For Robert’s key message is one of unity. His art, words and actions underscore a deep commitment to the idea that we are all one people, that we must stand together to face the coming challenges. That is the great and enduring power of Robert Davidson’s 14,000 year old Indigenous culture, the power of an art so beautiful it must be seen over and again. And as Robert Davidson himself makes clear, this is a shining beacon that could help guide us all through increasingly stormy seas.

Haida Modern is directed by Charles Wilkinson, produced by Wilkinson and Tina Schliessler of Shore Films; and executive produced by Kevin Eastwood of Optic Nerve Films. The film is produced in association with Knowledge Network, the Canada Media Fund and with the participation of the Rogers Documentary Fund.

More information: www.charleswilkinson.com, [Trailer](#)

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