

Exhibition features Northwest Coast

"Objects of Bright Pride: Northwest Coast Indian Art from the American Museum of Natural History," an exhibition of selections from the largest and most important collection of Northwest Coast Indian art in the world, will open at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art April 23.

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The exhibit will remain on view through June 18.

The 100 prized objects were selected for this exhibition by guest curator Allen Wardwell, director of the Isamu Noguchi Museum in New York.

The Northwest Coast, a thin strip of land stretching from Yakutat Bay to Puget Sound is among the richest natural environments in the world. Works in the exhibition come from the six major tribes that inhabited the area — the Tlingit, Haida, Tsimshian, Kwakiutl, Bella Bella and Bella Coola.

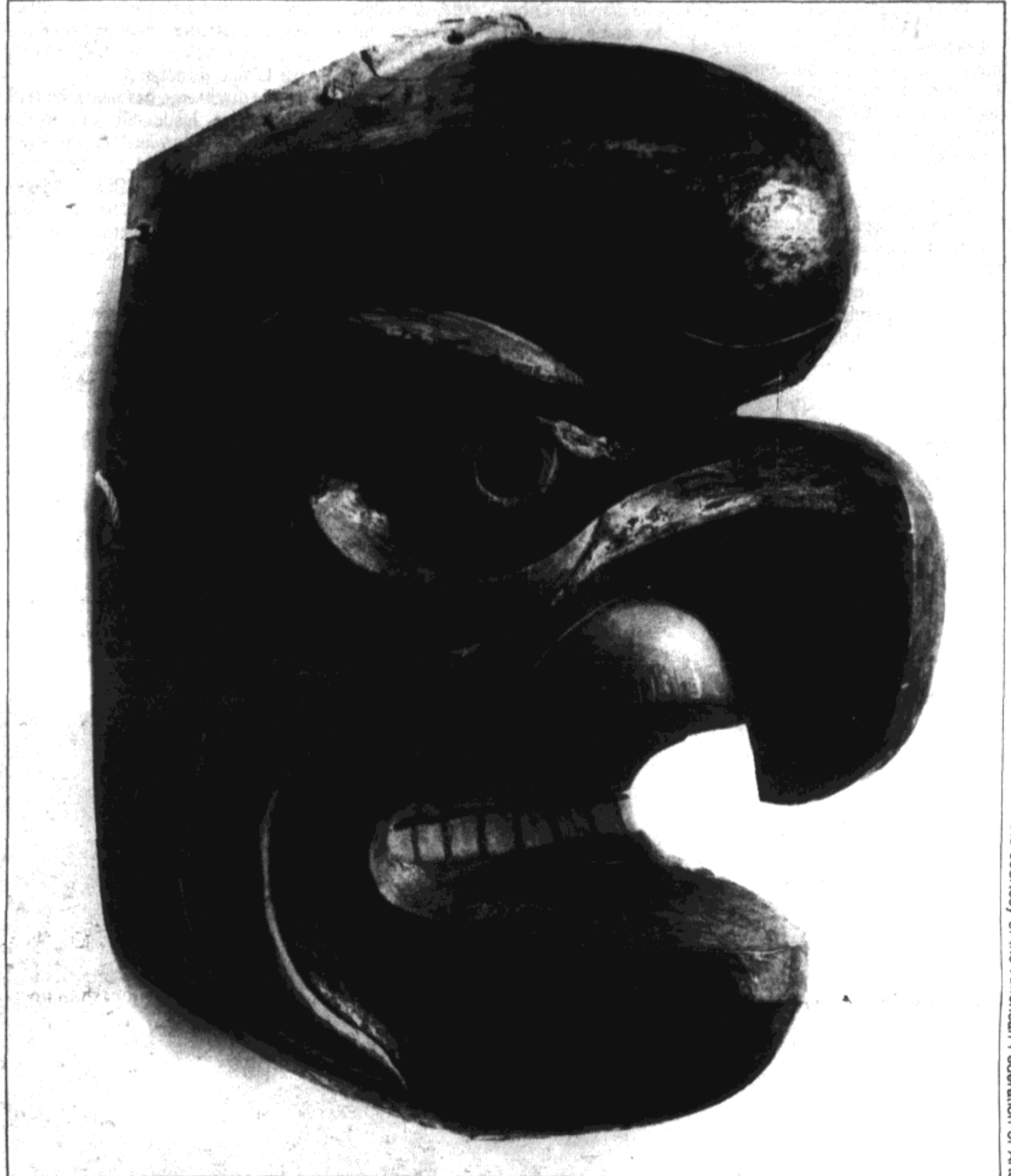
The art of the Northwest Coast Indians is as distinctive as it is renowned. Best known for the creation of the totem pole, these tribes are represented in the exhibition by many significant objects, including masks, headdresses, boxes, storage chests, feast dishes, spoons and ladles, daggers and pipes, ceremonial costumes and rattles.

Wood was the principal medium for these works, but other materials such as bone, ivory, animal hide and wool were also employed. Characteristically painted in bold, contrasting colors such as red, black, blue and white, the objects are also frequently ornamented with shell inlay, fur, animal skin and feathers.

All of the works in this exhibition were made within the last two centuries.

The exhibition's title is drawn from a passage written by William Reid, a scholar in the field of Northwest Coast Indian Art and a contemporary sculptor who creates works in the Northwest Coast style:

"These were objects of bright pride, to be admired in the newness of their crisply carved lines, the powerful flow



A Bella Coola face mask — wood with black and red pigment — is part of the exhibition opening April 23.

of sure elegant curves and recesses — yes, in the brightness of fresh paint.

"They told the people of the completeness of their culture, the continu-

ing lineages of the great families, their closeness to the magic world of universal myth and legend."

Accompanying the exhibition is a

128-page catalogue which contains illustrations of all 100 objects, as well as major essays by Wardwell.

Admittance to this exhibit is \$2.