



These sunglasses, designed by Corinne Hunt, are the highlight of her new book, *Corinne Hunt: The Art of Design*.

## CORRINE HUNT: the Post-Olympic Legacy

By Renée Remy

"Hunt" is a well-known name among the northwest coast artistic community. Family members include internationally renowned Harry, Richard and Tony Hunt, all of whom influenced Corinne Hunt's art.

In 2010 Corinne pushed the family name to atmospheric heights with her artwork taking center stage. Initially, at the 2010 Winter Olympics, she had the privilege of co-creating the medals.

Her artwork was a much sought after masterpiece for countless media outlets around the world.

When asked directly about what she thought her legacy was from the 2010 Winter Olympics, Hunt states simply: "The important thing for me is that we all had a way to communicate with one another. The medals were about the individual athletes, about the story of the athletes. We all live in a community, we can only thrive in a community. That is a really important part of the story."

"Storytelling was my gift to the medals. I really had to reflect on what this meant. I had to reflect on what the medals meant to the athletes, the images of the snow and ice and what it would symbolize for the athletes."

The Olympics might be over, but Hunt's talent and work continues. Many others see it too, as demonstrated by her winning of the 2011 National Aboriginal Achievement Award for a lifetime of artistic work.

Hunt's closest Olympic related follower is her current role as an director for a major exhibit that spans two continents and two cultural institutions. The assignment got its official start during the Winter Olympics. At the Saaten House, a partnership signing took place between the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden (SKZ), which is based in Germany, and the Utsunomiya Cultural Centre.



The Saaten House in Dresden, Germany, is the site of the exhibit. The building is a masterpiece of architecture and is one of the most important cultural institutions in Dresden.

SKZ, in English the Dresden State Art Collection, is a formidable conglomerate of 12 prestigious museums from around the world that cover a diversity of themes. The Utsunomiya Cultural Centre, a First Nations cultural centre located in Alert Bay, B.C., was built to house the renowned Kwakwaka'wakw potlatch artifacts. Utsunomiya Cultural Society's work in the late '70s and early '80s was ground breaking for its staffroom insistence on the separation of commercial items.

Together, SKZ and Utsunomiya are making history by contributing to an artistic exchange resulting in an equitable cross-cultural collaboration. The result is "The Power of Giving" exhibit, showcasing gifts from the Saaten House's Court and the Kwakwaka'wakw Big House. The exhibit opens on April 21 for Utsunomiya and May 1 for

SKZ, and closes on August 26, 2011.

Close to home, Hunt has been keeping busy with new commissions and other artistic collaborations. The Canadian Museum of Civilization recently collected two of her furniture pieces.

She is also directing another art project and working with two British Columbia businesses, Bona Manufacturing and Tundra Skin Inc.

For Bona, Hunt developed a softwear line. She also greatly values the artists freedom that she was given in her design work by the company.

She also appreciates that they manufacture much of their products in house, regularly using recycled materials such as Hunt's "Yes to My" softwear line, which features other recycled glass or paper.

