

WVMCC

Collections

As part of our mission, the Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center makes efforts to conserve items in its collection.

Currently, 65,000 objects in our Permanent Collection are utilized by staff for multiple purposes including research, exhibits and educational programs. The public is also welcome to contact collections staff to set up appointments to do research and view objects that are not currently on display.

Collections staff work alongside volunteers to ensure that objects in the Permanent Collection are identified, cataloged and stored properly so they will last into the future.

We preserve objects in our Permanent Collection through proper handling, monitoring environmental conditions, using high-quality archival storage materials, and through conservation projects such as the restoration of our 1894 James Everett Stuart Painting.

Part of our mission is to ensure our shared history is preserved and honored throughout time.



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*"Sunset and Moonrise on the Great Chief,
or the Ruling Spirit of the Columbia"*

Artist: James Everett Stuart

Date: 1894

Restoration Project 2017—18

About the Artist



James Everett Stuart
1852 – 1941

James Everett Stuart comes from a long lineage of accomplished painters. His grandfather, Gilbert Stuart, was best known for his portrait series of George Washington. James grew up in the West and traveled extensively throughout Mexico and the Northwest, including three visits to Alaska. These travels are evident in the approximately 5,000 works he is credited with painting.

Though he was adept at portraiture, the majority of his paintings are landscapes. He was nationally recognized by the turn of the century selling paintings to prominent people including John D. Rockefeller. In 1912, he opened a studio in Union Square, San Francisco, where he resided until his death in 1941.

By the early 20th century, Stuart was a highly successful and well-known painter. His paintings are still actively sold at auctions and others are currently hung in the White House, several prestigious art galleries in the Western states and in the collections of many historical societies.

About the Painting

The painting "Sunset and Moonrise of the Great Chief, or the Ruling Spirit of the Columbia" is an honored piece in the Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center (WVMCC) collection and is hung prominently in the museum Annex, measuring 7.4 x 5.7 feet. It is especially exciting due its unique history and it is in need of conservation.

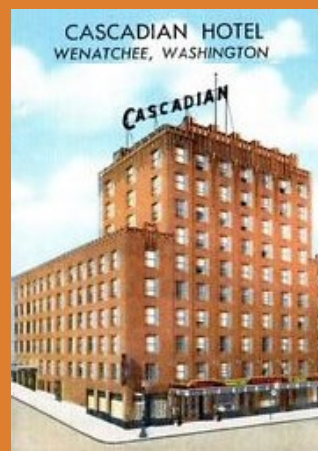
Created in 1894 by James Everett Stuart, this painting was displayed in the 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco, in the Washington Building. It was then displayed by the Washington State Historical Society in Tacoma.

The subject is a large rock formation overlooking the Columbia River at the Maryhill Ferry, near Goldendale. It appears to be the profile of an Indian chief, with his war feathers gracefully extended down his back. At the base of the cliff are several teepees, canoes and a glowing fire. The cliff basks in the rosy glow of the setting sun as the full moon rises in the center of the picture and is reflected in the shimmering waters of the Columbia. The unusual rock formation is said to have fallen into the river since the painting of the scene.

This landscape painting in its original ornate gilded frame is reflective of late 19th century Neo-

Romanticism, with influences of the Hudson River School of painters.

Purchased in 1954 by Frank A. Dupar, Sr. It was to hang in the lobby of the Cascadian Hotel in Wenatchee until it was gifted to Wenatchee Valley College in 1968 by the Dupar Family. The college donated the painting to the museum in 1985.



Over the past 123 years of its life, the painting has darkened and is in need of conservation to bring it back to its former vibrant glory. We are contracting with conservator Bruce F. Miller out of Redmond Washington, for this project.

It is hoped that once conservation is complete this large painting can be displayed prominently in the museum for all to appreciate.

Goal: \$15,000

\$7,000
painting
restoration

\$6,000
frame restoration

\$2,000
transportation

By being a donor, you get exclusive details about and throughout the restoration process, and possibly a private event with the restoration artist.

Donors contributing \$500 and above will be honored in perpetuity at the unveiling of the restored painting with their name on a permanent plaque which will be hung at its side.

*Your contribution to this
project is greatly
appreciated.*