

MATUES REVISITED



EXHIBITION

January 21st to March 13th, 2022

MARY E. BLACK GALLERY

Kjipuktuk/Halifax, Nova Scotia



Cheryl SimonQUILLER'S BASKET, 2016

Kawi'k, papkukewey maskwi, reeds, tnuan Birch bark, porcupine quills, sinew, reed

CREDITS

DESIGN Grace Laemmler *gracelaemmlerdesign.ca*PHOTOGRAPHY Ian Selig (inside cover, pages 1, 16–19, 22, 23, 27, 28 & back cover) *All other photographs are courtesy of the artists.*

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Kay Sark SNOWSTORM OF MY LIFE, 2022

EXHIBITION STATEMENT

BY AIDEN GILLIS, Lead Curator



Matues Revisited na kis-mawa'tasik we'kwi-wlamu'k elawika'tasikl kisitu'tijl Elawika'taqatijik Wijikitultijik E'pitjik: Melissa Peter-Paul, Kay Sark, and Cheryl Simon. Ula amalitaqatite'wk ika'tu'tijl na'kwekmual, wkamlamunual aqq teli-ntawa'qa'tekemk apaja'tunew ula tel-keknue'k aqq tel-kelu'lkw lukwaqney Mi'kmawe'l Elawika'tasikl Maski-iktuk.

E'tasiw ula amalitaqatite'wk wetnu'kwalsit aji-pilua'tun wtlukwaqn aqq ta'n teltekl ki's sa'q ala'tumkl we'kaw elapskita'sikl, kaqapitkl aqq amaltaqwikasikl. Nemitumk ne'kaw tel-lukwet amaliteket, weja'tekemk mawo'tumk koqoey ewekasik maqmikew-iktuk aqq tel-kiskaja'tumk aqq tel-keknuitasik kisitaqn. *Matues App Iloqaptasik* etek kisi-l'ta'mk naji-iloqaptasiktn kisitaqnn ta'n wejiaq kina'masuti wjit Siawa'tumk teli-anko'tmumk mimajuaqney, teli-jiko'tmumk wksitqamuey, kaqmutekemkewey aqq muwi'watekemk, nemitumk elawika'tekemk.



Matues Revisited is a gathering of vibrant porcupine quillwork art created by The Quill Sisters: Melissa Peter-Paul, Kay Sark, and Cheryl Simon. These artists have dedicated their time, passion, and creativity to reinvigorating the unique and dynamic tradition of Mi'kmaw quillwork embellishment on birchbark forms.

Each artist works to push their designs beyond traditional utilitarian structures to explore conceptual artistic expression including sculpture, wall pieces, and geometric studies. The artist's hands are present in every step of each element, which requires gathering all materials from the earth and preparing them to be ready for creating designs of fine precision. *Matues Revisited* offers a space to visit with an artform that holds teachings in sustainability, environmental awareness, patience, and gratitude, evident in each step of quillwork creation.

CURATORIAL STATEMENT

MI'KMAW



Matues Revisited na me'sua'taqn wjit Mi'kmawey elawika'tasikl ta'n tel-se'sa'tumk aqq wi'kipatmumk ula sa'qewey teli-amalitekemk ta'n wji-kina'masiten koqoey wiaqtek wjit wejkwa'taqnik, nike' aqq elmi'knik.

Amalitaqatite'wk Kay Sark, Cheryl Simon, aqq Melissa Peter-Paul, tel-nenujik The Quill Sisters, ela'tu'tis Mary E Black Gallery kisite'taqn *Matues Revisited* aqq kwilutmi'tis L'nu'k nikana'tunew teli-anko'tasik ula me'sua'taqn. Kis kwilutmi'tij wejiaq toq-lukutinew No'pa Sko'siaewey Amalitaqnewo'kuo'm aqq nuji-amaliteket Jordan Bennett kisa'tunew anko'tekemkewey aknutmaqn wjit ula teli-apaja'tumk teli-amalitekemk.

Me'sua'taqn teluisik *Matues Revisited* weji-wisik tapu'kl keknue'kl klusuaqnn *matues* (mah-doo-wess) *porcupine* aklasie'w-iktuk. *Revisited* (Iloqaptasik) wesku'tk ta'n elawika'taqatimk teli-apaja'tu'tij amalitaqatijik L'nu'k, mita pekije'k mu telukutimntip.

Mi'kmawey elawika'taqatimk na amalitaqn ta'n amalukwasik maskwi ewe'wujik essawiatasijik kawi'k, welima'qewey msiku, tnuan aqq jipiske'l lipkite'knapi. Ula koqoey wejiaq maqamikew-iktuk The Quill Sisters aqq wikmawaq mawo'tu'tij kisna weja'tu'tij sa'se'wimk, ekinua'tekek tetuji-keknue'k mawlukutimk wjit msit koqoey Mi'kmaq tela'taqati'tij. Sa'se'wimk keknue'k wjit ula amaltaqatijik wikultijik wutanmual Epekwitk (PEI) mita mu eymu'ti'k matuesk ula miniku. Ta'n tujiw Kay Sark wesku'tk elawika'tekemk teluet ta'n koqoey mawi-kesatk na maw-lukuti'tiji wunaqapeml aqq wunijink ketantu'tij koqoey ewe'wk. Ula koqoey

keknue'k wjit ta'n tel-lukwet Kay Sark, ula wesku'tkip ta'n teli-ksatk tel-lukwet wejiaq *Epekwitk Quill Sisters podcast:*

"Ta'n tujiw ankite'tm, msit koqoey tel-lukwey kesatm. Ta'n tujiw kwilm aqq menipko'tu Maskwi, welsitm. Ta'n tujiw meno'taq kawi'k matues, maw-wlamkik teli-istuikultijik aqq istu'kilultijik. Ta'n tujiw ketantu welima'qewey msiku, mu pasik pessetu msiku pessetu elt apaqt."

— Kay Sark, (Sark agg Simon 1:00:30)

Ne'kaw koqoey kisitoq Kay Sark we'kaw *If You Believe*, 2022 (image on back cover), aqq *Pink Lemonade*, 2018, ta'n tel-kepmite'tk maskwi nemitumk wkisite'te'taqnmk. Wtlukwaqn ewe'wkl kesamu'kl tujiw kiwto'qiw iko'toql maqtewe'kl kawi'l kulaman aji-ne'taptmumkl kesamu'kewe'l maskwi-iktuk.

Matues Revisited toqwa'toql kinu'tmaqn aqq tel-mil-lukutimk eltumk elawika'taq kulaman wenik peji-ankaptmi'tij tlo'taq wiaqa'lujik. Ula tela'tekemk amujpa menaqaj eltewistu'timkik amalitaqatijik kulaman pasik ika'ten kinua'taqn ta'n ketu' ika'tu'tij aqq koqoey kina'matnewey ketu-iknmua'tij pasik L'nue'kati'l. Ula telita'simk istue'k aqq ta'n tel-kinamuemk se'k, ta'n msit koqoey ta'n pasik wen kis-we'wtew, mu tela'sinuk na L'u'k telo'lti'tij. Etek koqoey kis-kina'muaten wenik pejita'jik,

CURATORIAL STATEMENT continued

kutey wesku'tasik menaqaj teli-anko'tmumk mimajuaqney, teli-jiko'tmumk wksitqamuey, kaqmutekemkewey aqq muwi'watekemk, nemitumk elawika'tekemk. Ula me'sua'taqn wiaqtek etek teluisik Etl-kina'masimk, ta'n pejita'jik wenik kis-kina'masultitaq tel-kiskaja'tumk keknuikkl kisite'taqnn, aqq nmitunew koqoey ewe'wasik eltumkl ula kisitaqnn.

Ankita'suaqn wjit Mi'kmawe'l elawika'taqne'l aqq telo'ltimkewey kisitaqn wejiaq ta'n telqamikek aqq tel-keknuikk maqamikew Mi'kma'kik (Mi'kmaq Wmitkiwow). Te's amalikk kisna napuikaqn keknue'k tel-we'wasik elawika'taqne'l. Piluikl amalikkl ewe'wasikl mlkiknewa'tun kawi'k, amalamu'kl tel-wije'tultik aqq aknutmaqn wije'ti'tij kisitaqn.

Kaqi'sk elawika'taqney telaptmumk mesanqek, pelaptmumk te'sik lukwaqn eliaq eltumk.
Kutey nike', kisi-naso'luj kawi'k maskwi-iktuk, kinikwekl temta'sikl kulaman ma' pase'nukl, aqq ma' pessaptosik wen etl-lukwej. Cheryl Simon wtlukwaqn *Indian Point*, 2022 (image on page 17) nemitumk setamk maskwi mna'q temta'si'k kawi'k. Ula ne'wt, sasqe'k etek setamk aqq kinikwekl nastekl nikantuk, kulaman nmitten ta'n teltek lame'k. Weji-wisik me'su'tuk nemiujik kinikwejik kawi'k, aqq elt wjit kaqi'sk tami kmitkinaq (Turtle Island -North America) telui'tasik Indian Point.

Mi'kmawey elawika'taqney na kitk amalitaqn aqq lukwaqney, toqa'toql telita'simk aqq telitekemk milesk aknutmaqney wije'wmumk. Wejkwa'taqnik, L'nu'k eltu'tisnn kutputie'l tu'kwe'smunn aqq pkijoqiknn kawio'qlaqne'l ntui'skmanew pejita'te'wk. Ke'sk mna'q ntui'skewe'l sawiaqnn poqji-we'wasinukek Mi'kma'kik 1856ek, elawika'taqatijik Mi'kmaq ewe'wmi'tis sawiaqnn weja'tu'tij maqamikew-iktuk l'tunew we'kwi-wlamu'kl elawika'taqne'l, ewe'wmi'tij mekwe'k wejiaq maskwe'smann aqq stoqnamu'k wejiaq msi'ku'l. Ntui'skewe'l sawiaqnn kaqi-pilua'tu'tij tel-lukutimk aqq iknmuap amalitaqatilijik kis-we'wmnew milamu'k koqoey. Amskwes keknue'kip Mi'kmawey kisitaqnn tlamu'ktn kutey koqoey wejiaq wsitqamu'k.

Mi'kmawey elawika'taqney mu na pasik weltek amalitaqn ankaptmumk aqq ewe'wmumk. Wejiaq ekinua'lsimk ta'n wenimk aqq aknutmaqney — iloqaptmumk kisa'lisk piluita'sin. Wjit Melissa Peter-Paul, wije'wk sa'qewey lukwaqney, mu newti-lukwek wen elawika'teket. Iknmask kisi-tkweywan nikanitapni'k, kutey tel-aknutmuapn Jordan Bennettal:

"Msit koqoey ta'n tela'tekemk mu telo'tmu nkutey lukwaqn. Naqalo'tm. Ta'n tujiw klapis pemkopa'si aqq poqji-lukwatm napuikaqnn, telo'tm nkutey wetlikai tapuiskekel km. aqq klapis pekisinn nukmi'j wpatautimk, aqq eskmalik kisi-ika'tuit weli-eppetek pitewey. Nutqweyin ankite'tmn, tal-lukwetes kisikweyan, tali-apaji-apankituates msit no'kmaq, aqq ula ta'n tel-lukwey na nekmowey wjit ni'n."

- Melissa Peter Paul (Bennett and Peter-Paul, 228)

2020ek Peter-Paul mawi-amskwes kisitoqsip kawio'qlaqn, wejikina'masip iloqaptik sa'qewey kisitaqn, wet-napukwatkis ta'n telitasik katu nemitut wtlukwaqn ta'n telikk aqq telamkwa'toq (image on page 26).

Matues Revisited na me'sua'taqn ta'n teli-ankaptasik elawika'taqney kutey ajelk etek jel mu pasik teli-ntawa'qa'tekemk telukutimk, mawkiljaqn aqq tel-we'wmumk amalamu'kl. Ta'n Mi'kmaq teli-ktlamsitasultijik, elawika'taqney mjijaqamijuik. Elawika'taqney aqq maskwi mimaju'ntikl pemi-aji-ksamu'kl, kawi'k paqjuikita'jik, wapoqsitjik aqq pemawsijik — amiw kutey kinu teloʻlti'k — ke'sk mu apaja'sinuk maqamikewiktuk ta'n wejiaq. Wije'wmumk ula telita'simk, keknue'kip tli-wsua'tasin kutey mawa'tumk mu pasik me'sua'tasinuk elawika'taqney, aqq etekl me'su'tuk etekl wenik nmitunew mu elmi'kasik pitenukl.

Mi'kmawey elawika'taqney pilua'toq ta'n telo'ltimk, aji-wli-nsitmumk ta'n wenulti'k, aqq tel-kinua'lsulti'k teli-L'nuwulti'k ula wksitqamu'k. Simon teluet, "ktu' apoqntmumk aqq siawa'tumk teli elawika'tekemk amujpa nike' apoqnmujik amalitaqatijik eltu'tij piley amalitaqn, aqq kepmite'lmujik telukutisnik wejkwa'taqnik." Ktu' nsitmumk ta'n wenik L'nuimk, amujpa nestmumk mimajik aqq mjijaqamijuik msit koqoey tlia' mu me'tenuk. Mu kisi-jikla'tumntl ta'n weni'k aqq wetnu'kwalsulti'k mawlukutinew aqq miwatmnew maqamikew, samqwan aqq wju'sn.

REFERENCES

Bennett, Jordan and Peter-Paul, Melissa. "Bridget Anne Sack." *Uninvited: Canadian Women Artists in the Modern Moment*. Edited by Sarah Milroy, McMichael Canadian Art Collection. Figure 1 Publishing, 2021, pp. 227–228. ISBN 9781773271194

Sark, Kay and Simon, Cheryl, hosts. "Chatting with a Pro." *Epekwitk Quill Sisters*, Apple Podcasts, episode 13 (6 September 2021). <podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/chatting-with-a-pro/id1567885864?i=1000534436138>

CURATORIAL STATEMENT

ENGLISH



Matues Revisited is an exhibition of Mi'kmaw quillwork that is eager to share and celebrate what this millennia-old artform can teach us and what it embodies in the past, present, and future.

Artists Kay Sark, Cheryl Simon, and Melissa Peter-Paul, also known as The Quill Sisters, proposed *Matues Revisited* to the Mary E Black Gallery along with a desire to have an Indigenous-led curatorial direction for the show. Their request led to a partnership with the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia and artist Jordan Bennett to draw a curatorial narrative between the dynamic forms of this revisited artistic practice.

The exhibition title *Matues Revisited* comes from two main branches: *matues* (mah-doo-wess) means *porcupine* in the Mi'kmaw language. *Revisited* directly references current efforts of quillwork revitalisation by Mi'kmaw artists, as this practice was dormant for generations.

Mi'kmaw quillwork is an artform that involves embellishing birchbark surfaces with dyed porcupine quills, sweet grass, sinew, and spruce root strips. These elements are collected directly from the earth by The Quill Sisters, their families, and acquired through trade, which emphasizes that community involvement has a place at the core of everything we do as Mi'kmaw people. Trade is especially important for the artists who live in their home communities on Epekwitk (Prince Edward Island), as there are no porcupines on the island. When Kay Sark speaks about her favourite part of creating quillwork, she talks about gathering

resources with her partner and children. These materials have a special place in Sark's relationship to her practice, as she explains during an episode of the *Epekwitk Quill Sisters podcast*:

"When I think about it, I have a favourite thing about everything (involved with quillwork). When we're harvesting the bark, my favourite part is the sound. When I'm getting the quills off the porcupine, my favourite thing is seeing all the different kinds and sizes. When I'm harvesting sweet grass, it's the smell of not just the grass but the salt from the ocean."

— Kay Sark (Sark and Simon 1:00:30)

Throughout various pieces created by Sark including *If You Believe*, 2022 (image on back cover), and *Pink Lemonade*, 2018, her respect for the bark is highlighted by its involvement in her designs. Her work features bright colours outlined by black quills to enhance their vibrancy against the natural tones of the birchbark.

Matues Revisited incorporates educational insight into the behind-the-scenes process of creating quillwork as an invitation for visitors to be part of the journey. This goal required sensitive consultations with the artists to determine what information may be shared, and what must remain within Mi'kmaw communities. This consideration challenges Western notions of consumer culture that everything is meant to be consumed freely

by everyone, which does not align with Indigenous cultural practices. We are inviting visitors into what may be shared, including conversations about the sustainability, environmental awareness, patience, and gratitude, that goes behind each piece. Accompanying the exhibition is a space called *The Learning Room* where visitors have the opportunity to learn about how to create precise symmetrical designs, and to see the materials before they are transformed into finished work.

Mi'kmaw quillwork designs and cultural iconography take inspiration from the natural forms and symmetry found on the land of Mi'kma'ki (Mi'kmaq Territory). Each shape or motif has a strategic purpose within quillwork compositions. Different shapes contribute to the physical stability of the quills, colour theory, and stories within the work.

Often quillwork is created to be seamless, disguising evidence of all the work that goes on behind the scenes. For example, after quills are inserted into the bark, the pointed ends are usually clipped to remove bulk between layers and to decrease the chances of getting injured while working. Cheryl Simon's piece *Indian Point*, 2022 (image on page 17) features the reverse side of the bark with uncut quills. For once, the smooth side is the back of the piece and the pointed side is the front, to show what is often concealed. The title draws reference to the exposed quills, while simultaneously referencing that there are multiple areas named Indian Point across Turtle Island (North America).

Mi'kmaw quillwork as a practice walks the line of both art and craft, while connecting minds and hands to rich histories. Historically, familiar utilitarian forms such as chair seat covers and baskets with lids have been made to appeal to the trade market between Indigenous communities and settlers. Before the introduction of commercial dyes to the trade market on Mi'kma'ki in 1856, Mi'kmaw quillwork artists used natural pigments from the land to create stunning designs, including the colour red from chokecherries, and green from grass. Commercial dyes were game changers and inspired artists to use all that had become available to them. Long ago, it was important for Mi'kmaw material culture to have natural tones of camouflaging qualities to blend into the landscape.

A piece of quillwork art is more than a stunning object to consume and utilise. It animates personality and a story — the opportunity to visit with one may change a person's life. For Melissa Peter-Paul, who works closely with historical pieces dating back centuries, quillwork is far from a lonely practice. It provides an opportunity to spend time with those who came before us, as she explained during an interview with Jordan Bennett:

"The whole process doesn't feel like work. It feels like home. When I finally sit down and start drawing out my designs, it's like I've walked twenty kilometres and I finally got to my grandmother's table and she has hot tea waiting for me. You spend your whole young life wondering, what do I want to be when I grow up, how am I going to give back to my people, and this is it for me."

- Melissa Peter-Paul (Bennett and Peter-Paul, 228)

CURATORIAL STATEMENT continued

In 2020, Peter-Paul created her first quilled box through observing an ancestral piece, retracing the steps of how it was made while adding her own character to the design and colour pallet (image on page 26).

Matues Revisited is an exhibition that understands the breath of quillwork beyond polished results of fine-tuned dexterity in application, mathematics, and colour combinations. From the perspective of Mi'kmaw worldview, quillwork pieces have spirits. Quillwork exists to live a life with bark that deepens in hue; quills warping, fading, and living — much like our own features — before returning to the earth where it came. With this value in mind, it was important to acknowledge this as a gathering of quillwork rather than a display, and various pieces are exhibited out in the open without glass separating the work from the visitor.

Mi'kmaw quillwork changes lives through cultural land-based connection, allowing us to understand ourselves and share who we are as Mi'kmaw people with the world. As Simon exclaims, "to support and preserve quillwork is to get behind the artists of today as we create new work, with respect to all who came before us." Understanding our humanity as Mi'kmaw people, is understanding that we see humanity and spirit within forms that can not speak for themselves. We see them as inseparable from ourselves and strive to work with the land, water, and air in reciprocity and gratitude.

REFERENCES

Bennett, Jordan and Peter-Paul, Melissa. "Bridget Anne Sack." *Uninvited: Canadian Women Artists in the Modern Moment*. Edited by Sarah Milroy, McMichael Canadian Art Collection. Figure 1 Publishing, 2021, pp. 227–228. ISBN 9781773271194

Sark, Kay and Simon, Cheryl, hosts. "Chatting with a Pro." *Epekwitk Quill Sisters*, Apple Podcasts, episode 13 (6 September 2021). <podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/chatting-with-a-pro/id1567885864?i=1000534436138>





AIDEN GILLIS na amaliteket ta'n eyk Kjipuktuk Mi'kma'ki etek No'pa Sko'sia.

Wetapeksit Mi'kmaq aqq Wenujk aqq tleyawit Tkisnuke'l Ktaqmkuk, Gillis etlikwep Wulastukewe'katik, Sikniktikewa'ki. Nekm ta'n tel-lukwet na amaljaqawet, amal-wi'kiket aqq eli'sawet, toqo ewe'wk wsitqamuey, aqq ta'n tel-nmiuj ji'nmuk aqq e'pijik, apaja'tumk telo'ltimk aqq wutann melkiknewa'tumkl.

Gillis kaqi-kisa'toqsip 2017-ek Espi-kina'masimkewey Amalitekemk (BFA) ta'n meski'k ekina'masip Amalitekemk tujiw apje'jk ekina'masip Amalitaqney Aknutmaqn wejiaq NSCAD Espi-kina'masimkewey Kina'matewo'kuom, Kjipuktuk, NS. Kiskuk etl-lukwet amalitekemkewey kina'masuti aqq nujo'tk Etli-anko'tasikl Amalitaqnn, aqq naspit Mawio'mi Naspultijik Nikanusk wjit Mi'kmaw Native Friendship centre aqq ma'w naspit Espe'k Mawikwamk Canadian Art Gallery Educators.



AIDEN GILLIS is a visual artist based in Kjipuktuk (Halifax) on Mi'kma'ki (Mi'kmaq Territory) in Nova Scotia.

Of Mi'kmaw and French roots from Western Ktaqmkuk (Newfoundland), Gillis grew up primarily on Wolastokuk (Wolastoqiyik / Maliseet Territory) in New Brunswick. His art practice often takes the route of painting, drawing, and sewing, while exploring an interest in wildlife subject matter and representational themes of gender, cultural revitalization, and community empowerment.

Gillis completed a 2017 BFA majoring in Fine Art with a minor in Art History at NSCAD University in Halifax, NS. Currently working in arts education and curation at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, he also serves on the Board of Directors for the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship centre and an Executive Committee Member of the Canadian Art Gallery Educators.

PRONUNCIATIONS

Kjipuktuk

jee·book·took Halifax *"great harbour"*

Ktaqamkuk

uk·da·hum·gook Newfoundland, "over the waves"

Mi'kma'ki

mii·g·maa·gi "Mi'kmaq Territory"

Mi'kmaq

mii·g·maa *"Mi'kmaq (plural) Nation"*

Mi'kmaw

mii·g·maw "Mi'kmaw (singular) being"

Wolastokuk

wool·lus·tuh·guk "Wolastoqiyik / Maliseet Territory"

Wolastoqiyik

wool·lus·took·we·ugg

Maliseet, "people of the beautiful river"





JORDAN BENNETT na Mi'kmaw amaliteket tleyawit Stephenville Crossing, Ktagamkuk (Newfoundland). Wikit agg etl-lukwet ta'n wetapeksit Mi'kma'ki teluisik Terence Bay, No'pa Sko'sia tekweyati'titl agg ma'w togi-lukwe'titl wsisipeml teluisilitl Amy Malbeuf. Jordon wktlukwaqn ewe'wk amaljaqwemk, elapskite'kemk, amalapimkewey, wiaqa'tasik meteta'q teli-ankaptmumk wksitqamu, tli'suti, emittukwemk, ta'n wetapeksimk, agg metu'taqne'wasikl ta'n aklasie'w teli-ankaptik ta'n L'nu wetapeksit togo e'we'wkl teli-ilogaptik Mi'kmawey agg Pi'tawkewey nemitasik telo'timkip Ktagamkuk. Metla'sipungekl atel kisi-pmiagl na Jordan naspipn 75 me'sua'taqnn ta'n iloqaptasik wtlukwaqn nekm aqq ma'w pilue'k wktlukwagnuew etliagipn Smithsonian-National Museum of the American Indian, NYC; MAC-VAL, Paris; The Museum of Art and Design, NYC, NY; Museum of Contemporary Native Arts, Santa Fe, NM; Project Space Gallery, RMIT, Melbourne, AUS; The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, The Winnipeg Art Gallery, The Power Plant, Toronto, ON; Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, Montreal, QC; Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France agg nekm newte'jit ta'n tapusijik amalitekejik weji-mknusnik Ktagamkuk 2015ek Venice Biennial at Galleria Ca'Rezzonico, Venice, Italy wiagpinew keknue'k telui'tasik Collateral Events.

Jordan wiaqpipn ta'n amaliteket etlqatk etliaqipn NSCAD Lithography Workshop: Contemporary Editions, Halifax, NS 2019ek, With Secrecy and Despatch, Campbelltown Art Centre, Campbelltown, Australia aqq Santa Fe Art Institute, Santa Fe, NM 2015ek RMIT University international Artist in Residence Program, Melbourne, Australia 2014ek, Shared Lands- Centre D'artistes Vaste et Vague, Carleton-sur-Mer, Quebec aqq Woodland School, What Color is the Present, Visual Arts, The Banff Centre, Alberta 2013ek.

Jordan wette'kipn kepmite'taqnn aqq nekm newte'jit mekenup wjit 2018ek Sobey Amalitaqney Kepmite'taqn, aqq elt ewi'tus wjit weja'ltimk 2016ek aqq 2015ek Sobey Art Award. Aqq wette'ksip Hnatyshan Foundation REVEAL award aqq iknmus 2014ek Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Councils Artist of the Year. Bennett wesko'tk Espi-kina'masimkewey Amalitekemk (BFA) wejiaq Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, Memorial University aqq wesko'tk Me' Aji-espi-kina'masimkewey Amalitekemk (BFA) wejiaq The University of British Columbia, Okanagan.

Headshot credit: Richie Perez



JORDAN BENNETT is a Mi'kmag visual from Stephenville Crossing, Ktagamkuk (Newfoundland). He lives and works on his ancestral territory of Mi'kma'ki in Terence Bay, Nova Scotia with his partner in life and art Amy Malbeuf. Jordan's ongoing practice utilizes painting, sculpture, video, installation and sound to explore land, language, the act of visiting, familial histories and challenging colonial perceptions of indigenous histories and presence with a focus on exploring Mi'kmag and Beothuk visual culture of Ktaqamkuk. In the past 10 years Jordan has participated in over 75 group and solo exhibitions nationally and internationally in venues such as the Smithsonian-National Museum of the American Indian, NYC; MAC-VAL, Paris; The Museum of Art and Design, NYC, NY; Museum of Contemporary Native Arts, Santa Fe, NM; Project Space Gallery, RMIT, Melbourne, AUS; The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, The Winnipeg Art Gallery, The Power Plant, Toronto, ON; Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, Montreal, QC; Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France and was one of two artists to represent Newfoundland and Labrador in the 2015 Venice Biennial at Galleria Ca'Rezzonico, Venice, Italy as part of the official Collateral Events.

Jordan has taken part in several artist in residency programs including NSCAD Lithography Workshop: Contemporary Editions, Halifax, NS in 2019, With Secrecy and Despatch, Campbelltown Art Centre, Campbelltown, Australia an Santa Fe Art Institute, Santa Fe, NM in 2015 RMIT University international Artist in Residence Program, Melbourne, Australia in 2014, Shared Lands- Centre D'artistes Vaste et Vague, Carleton-sur-Mer, Quebec and Woodland School, What Color is the Present, Visual Arts, The Banff Centre, Alberta in 2013.

He has been the recipient of several awards and honours most notably short listed for the 2018 Sobey Art Award, long listed for the 2016 and 2015 Sobey Art Award, a Hnatyshan Foundation REVEAL award and presented with the 2014 Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Councils Artist of the Year. Bennett holds a BFA from Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, Memorial University and an MFA from The University of British Columbia, Okanagan



Cheryl Simon
Kay Sark
Melissa Peter-Paul



CHERYL SIMON



CHERYL SIMON na L'nu'skw tleyawit Epekwitk, wikit Punamu'kwati'jk (Dartmouth), No'pa Sko'sia. Poqji-wlkasip Mi'kmawey Elawika'tasik e'pite'ji'juijek nemito'q elawika'tasikl ta'n wkwijl kisi-mawte'mlij. Apajiwsijek Mi'kma'kik 2007ek, poqjikina'masis welteskuajek aqq etlewistu'tijek wenik pema'tu'tij L'nuikjijitaqn, aqq elp ekina'masis tel-naso'luj kawi'k aqq teli-amalitekemk weja'toq ekitkl wi'katiknn, elietl etli-anko'tasik sa'qewey koqoey aqq naji-iloqaptikl elawika'tasikl elakwekl kmitkinaq.

Cheryl panta'toqsip wtmotaqney, Mi'kmaq Quill Art 2011ek aqq mawi-amskwesewe'l ketu'kina'masitl wesua'lasnl 2015ek. Mu pasik ekina'muaqsipn teli-elawika'tekemk, katu we'kaw ekina'muasnl wjit matuesk, maskwi, jipiskl agg welima'gewey msiku aqq ta'n teli-ktantumk aqq kiskaja'tumk. Cheryl melkuktik tel-kina'muaj wenik teli-elawika'tekemk aqq ki's ekina'muet teli-elawika'tekemk piamiw newtiskekipunqekl jel na'n. Ekina'muaji ta'n pasik wenik, ta'n pasik tewijo'ltiliji kina'matnewo'kuo'ml, aqq elp kaplno'lewe'l mtmo'taqe'l Kanata aqq Saqmawewa'ki'l. Panta'toqsip etl-lukwemk agg etl-kina'muemk Epekwitk 2016ek kulaman kis-kina'muata ne'siliji ketu' kina'masultiliji. Cheryl aqq ula amalitaqatite'wk me' pem-mawo'ltijik aqq wejiaq Epekwitk Elawika'taqatijik Wijikikitultijik E'pitjik.

Elawika'taqatijik Wijikikitultijik E'pitjik ika'tu'tis Jiksitmumk Etqoljuiku's, 2021ek, wesku'tasik ta'n tel-mil-lukutimk elawika'tekemk, aqq elt wikuma'tiji kisiku'k, pilue'k teli-elawika'taqatiliji aqq wunijanua. Cheryl poqji-kina'muaji wunijink elawika'tekemk aqq nenaqite'tk kis-kina'muan tel-mil-lukutimk wije'wmumkl sa'qewe'l kisite'taqnn. Etlite'tk teli-elawika'tekemk nuta'q melki-mawikwamk aqq welte'tk ta'n elawika'taqatijik teli-wiaqo'la'tij nutqo'ltiliji. Mekite'tk wunijink wtlukwaqnuew wiaqtek ula me'sua'taqn.

Tia'j na Cheryl pikwel-we'wk sa'qewey elawika'tekemk aqq ta'n tel-napukwatmumk, kisite'tkis ta'n tl-napukwattal elapskita'sikl kun'tew-iktuk nemitoqipn elakwekl No'pa Sko'sia. Ki's tapuipunqekl toqwa'toql elawika'tekemkl aqq napuikaqnn elapskita'sikl kun'tew-iktuk koqoey eltoq. Ula tel-lukwet nemitumk tel-keknuek milki'kl kawi'l ankua'tu'tij elawika'tekemk. Kiskukewey Mi'kmawey amalitaqn weja'toq kina'masuti piama'sin elawika'tekemkl pkijoqiknn sa'q eltoql, toqo pqoji-naskwa'tun kisitaqnn, kulaman naji-wlamu'kl kisitoql kisitaqnn.

Msit Cheryl wtlukwaqn etek *Matues Revisited* kisitasik wjit ula me'sua'taqn. Puktaqi-lukwatkl kisite'taqnn ne'saptmumkl wskitqamue'l kulaman nemitumk ta'n tl-wiaqa'tasis sa'qewe'l kisite'taqnn elawika'tekemk kiskuk. Cheryl welqatk kis-maw-lukuti'tiji Elawika'taqatijik Wijikikitultijik E'pitjik eltu'tij kawio'qlaqn, na'tkoqoey ta'n mna'q tela'taqatikisnik.



CHERYL SIMON is a Mi'kmaq woman from Epekwitk, currently residing in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. She fell in love with Mi'kmaw quillwork as a little girl studying her mother's collection of quill boxes. Upon moving back to Mi'kma'ki in 2007, she spent years meeting and learning from Mi'kmaw knowledge keepers, as well as studying the insertion technique and design through available publications, museums and accessing quillwork collections across the country.

Cheryl launched her business, Mi'kmaq Quill Art in 2011 and took on her first apprentice in 2015. The focus of the apprenticeship was not merely Mi'kmaw porcupine quillwork, but also learning the natural cycles of porcupines, birchbark, spruce root and sweetgrass and how to process the raw materials. Cheryl is committed to community education of the artform and has been teaching quillwork workshops for over fifteen years. She has taught workshops for the general public, in schools at all levels, as wells as both federal and provincial government departments. She opened a short-term studio in Epekwitk in 2016 to begin a program of instruction for three more apprentices. The relationship between Cheryl and these other artists has continued beyond their training and helped give rise to the establishment of The Quill Sisters.

The Quill Sisters launched a podcast in May of 2021, which covers all facets of quillwork, in addition to having guests such as Elders, other quill artists and the artist's children. Cheryl has begun to teach her children to quill and is excited to begin the process of teaching them the intricacies of designing in the traditional style. She feels that quillwork requires strong connections and is proud that the community of quillers is expanding to

include the younger generations. She is incredibly proud to have work created by her children featured in this exhibit.

While Cheryl focuses on traditional quillwork and construction, she also developed a process for accurately depicting the petroglyphs (rock carvings) after visiting the petroglyph sites in Nova Scotia. Over the past two years, she decided to incorporate both traditional designs and the petroglyph technique into the same quillwork pieces. This blending of styles lets her showcase the importance quill size can make in enhancing the detail of the design. She was recently inspired by contemporary Mi'kmaw art to move beyond the quill box lids which influenced her early work, to split the design into separate pieces, which adds a vibrancy to the designs.

Cheryl's pieces in *Matues Revisited* are all original designs for the show. She focused her work on pieces that were three dimensional in nature to highlight how adaptable traditional Mi'kmaw quill art techniques can be in the modern context. Cheryl is extremely excited to have worked on a collaborative piece with the Quill Sisters, which is something they have not done before.





KLOQOWEJ, 2021

Kawi'k, papkukewey maskwi, welima'qewey msiku, tnuan

Porcupine quills, summer birchbark, sweet grass, sinew



INDIAN POINT, 2022

Kawi'k, papkukewey maskwi, tupi, tnuan Porcupine quills, summer birchbark, spruce root, sinew



BEDFORD PETROGLYPH REVISITED, 2022

Kawi'k, papkukewey maskwi, tupi, tnuan

| Porcupine quills, summer birchbark, spruce root, sinew



INDIAN ACT, 2020

Kawi'k, papkukewey maskwi, welima'qewey msiku, tnuan Porcupine quills, summer birchbark, sweet grass, sinew





KAY SARK na L'nu'skw tleyawit Lennox Island, Epekwitk. Kay poqji-nenkis Mi'kmawey Elawika'tasik etl-kina'masijek Mi'kmaq Quill Art 2016ek. Ekina'masis teli-naso'lujik kawi'k agg telitumkl keknuikkl kisite'tagn. Agg elt, ekina'masis teli-ktantumkl kogoe'l ewe'wasikl elawika'tekemk: maskwi, welima'gewey msiku, jipiskl agg kawi'k.

Kay wtlukwagn keknuikk mita mu wije'wmuk telitasikl sa'gewe'l kawio'glagnn awnaga weja'tog kisite'tagn wije'wk kogoey ewe'wasik elawika'tekemk, na kesi-wlamu'k wtlukwagn. Wisqi-kina'masis tel-lukwemk aqq mu pekije'nukek tepaskmat pgoji-kina'muen tel-lukwemk. Tmk ekina'muasni wunijink, tujiw poqji-kina'muet wutanmuag agg msit tami se'k, ki's ekina'muet piamiw nanipungekl.

Mawi-amskwes kogoey kisitog Kay etlankuas kikjiw wikit, katu nike' ala'toq mtmo'taqney kisankuan ta'n pasik tami Epekwitk. Pikwelkl Amalitagne'l me'sua'tagn eykisn agg nike' kisa'tog wel-nenuksin kompu'tl-iktuk. Atel poqjia'q 2021, Kay wtlukwaqn wiaqa'tus me'sua'taqn teluisikl Eptek Art & Cultural Centre ika'tasikip Summerside, Epekwitk/PEI agg Ice House Gallery Tagamikujk/ Tatamagouche, No'pa Sko'sia/NS.

Kay wuniskamijewiliji wetgatmlisni Etlgatmumk Kina'matnewo'kuo'm, tetuji-mtue'k weja'timk jel entu'tis teli-lnuo'ltimk wikmag. Elawika'tekemk weja'tog me' kis-nenmn L'nuey, agg iknmaj kisi-tlweywan kisiku'k agg wenik pema'tu'tij L'nui-kjijitaqn aqq wji-kina'masin. Na wjit Kay mekite'tk nekm wunijink kis-siawa'tunew elawika'tekemk agg teli-ktantumk kogoey ewe'wasik elawika'tekemk. Teli-amaliteket weji-kina'masultijik wunijink ngalo'tmnew

L'nuey telo'ltimk. Nekm agg wunagapeml apognmatijik ketantu'tij kawi'k, welima'gewey msiku, aqq maskwi, mawuktmi'tij ewlawika'tekemk kulaman nekm agg wikmag kisi-mawi-kina'masultitag L'nuey telo'ltimk. Wkwisl kisitulij elawika'tagn etekip me'sua'taqn etlia'q Summerside, Epekwitk/PEI agg kitk wkwisl agg wtusl etek wtlukwagnuew ula me'sua'tagn.

Kay naspit Jiksitmumk Epekwitk Elawika'taqatijik Wijikikitultijik E'pitjik, poqjiaqip Etquljuiku's 2021ek. Te's wesku'tmi'tij na'tkoqoey wjit tel-lukutimk elawika'tekemk agg iknmaj kis-kina'muen wjit teli-l'nuo'ltimk aqq koqoey wejita'jik L'nu'k.

Ankita'suagn ta'n tlitutal amalitagn wjit *Matues* App Iloqaptasit Kay weja'toq ta'n tel-wije'tultikl amalamu'kl. Pogji-lukwatk elawika'tekemk eliatl klogoejl, tujiw iko'togl wije'tultikl amalamu'kl kulaman tetpagtetew agg keknuiktitew. Kay kesamatl kakwetl agg telo'tk wettagne'wasit ula kisite'taqn mita kaqamik wjit Mi'kma'ki aqq Mi'kmaq. E'tasiw wtlukwaqn etek ula me'sua'taqn ekinua'tekek tel-keknuiteket agg kisitog wjit ula me'suatagn.

Kay kisite'tk ula maw-lukwasik amalitaqn wjit ula me'sua'tasik, aqq welqatk tel-kinua'tekek teli-ntawa'qa'taqati'tij e'tasiw Elawika'taqatijik Wijikikitultijik E'pitjik.



KAY SARK is a Mi'kmaw woman from Lennox Island, Epekwit. Kay was introduced to Mi'kmaw porcupine quill work when she was accepted as an apprentice with Mi'kmaq Quill Art in 2016. Her apprenticeship was grounded in traditional quill insertion techniques and design work. In addition, she learned traditional harvesting protocols and practices the all the materials used: birch bark, sweet grass, spruce root and porcupine quills.

Kay's work is unique in that her inspiration is not drawn from historic pieces but rather the raw materials she works with, which lends a vibrancy to her work. She quickly excelled at the art form and developed the necessary skills to teach workshops. Her instructional experience began with her young children and then moved to community and public workshops, which she has been instructing for the past five years.

Kay's art was initially produced for a localized market, but in recent years she launched a business which expanded her sales across Epekwitk. She has participated in numerous craft shows and has succeeded in building an extensive online presence. In early 2021, Kay's work was featured in group exhibits at the Eptek Art & Cultural Centre in Summerside, PEI and the Ice House Gallery in Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia.

Kay is the granddaughter of a residential school survivor, a traumatic experience which created a cultural void in her family. Quillwork has been an avenue of cultural exploration, enabling her to create connections with knowledge keepers and Elders and providing her with a Mi'kmaw educational experience in a traditional manner. It is for this reason that Kay is extremely proud that her children are the second generation of quillers and harvesters in her family. Her art has allowed her children to view

cultural practices as a normal part of life. She and her partner share in harvesting porcupine quills, sweet grass and birch bark, making her quill art a launching point for a shared cultural experience for her family. Her son had a piece of quillwork in a gallery exhibit in Summerside, PEI and both he and her daughter have work featured in this exhibit.

Kay is co-host of Epekwitk Quill Sisters podcast, which launched in May 2021. Each episode explores a facet of the quillwork experience and allows Kay to share Mi'kmaw teachings and experiences with the general public.

Kay's creative process for the pieces featured in *Matues Revisited* start with her being inspired by different colour combinations. She begins each piece by quilling a foundational star, then incorporates the colour combinations to bring balance to the work and provide unique detail. Kay has gravitated to the eight-pointed star and feels a connection to that particular design, as it has become such a symbolic representation of the Mi'kmaw nation. Each piece in this exhibit highlights her unique style and were designed especially for the show.

Kay designed the collaborative piece for this exhibit, and was excited by the challenge of showcasing the skill set of each Quill Sister.



SNOWSTORM OF MY LIFE, 2022

Kawi'k, papkukewey maskwi, welima'qewey msiku, tnuan

| Porcupine quills, summer birchbark, sweet grass, sinew

This project is a collaboration between Kay Sark and Aiden Gillis



UNTITLED, 2022

Kawi'k, papkukewey maskwi, welima'qewey msiku, tnuan, waio'pskw, qasawo'q, wi'katikniktuk Porcupine quills, summer birchbark, sweet grass, sinew, beads, metal, paper



MELISSA PETER-PAUL



MELISSA na L'nu'skw tleyawit L'nue'kati teluisik Abegweit, etek Epekwitk. Melissa wejkwikwet L'nu'-kina'matnewey agg nemiaji agg tekweywaji wikmag msit pa'skite'ka'tiliji. Poqji-amalitekep nutgwe'kek, eltoql L'nuwuktamkl agq elapska'tekemk, aqq natawa'qa'toql kitk sa'qewey aqq kiskukewey telitumkl. Melissa pikwelk Mi'kmawey amalitagn ekina'masis mi'sogo klapis ika't teli-elawika'tekemk, sa'gewey lukwagn wniskamijl agg nekm wniskamijki'k natawa'ga'tu'tip.

Melisaa wesua'lup tl-kina'masin Mi'kmaq Quill Art 2015ek, kina'matnewey ta'n wejiaq L'nuita'simk. Ta'n koqoey ekina'masip kina'masuti wjit kawi'k wejiaq maqamikewiktuk aqq ekina'makwi'tiji wenik pema'tu'tij L'nui-kjijitaqn. Ekina'masis teli-naso'luj kawi'k aqq ekina'masisn kitk l'nu-kina'masuti aqq koqoey weji-kina'masimk wi'katiknn kis-wikasikl aqq ta'n etli-anko'tmumk sa'qewey koqoey. Elawika'tekemk eltumk naso'lujik kawi'k, essawiasijik kisna musike'kik, maskwi-iktuk. Tujiw elaqpa'tasik ewe'wujik kawi'k, welima'qewey msiku kisna jipiskl.

Ke'sk pem-kina'masijek, Melissa kis-kina'masit tel-lukwemk agg ta'n teli-ktantumk kogoey ewe'wmumk, aqq telitumkl keknuikkl kisite'taqnn. Tujiw kaqi-kina'masijek, Melissa kisa'toqsip ika'tasiktn ta'n tel-mawlukti'tij wenik natawa'qa'tu'tij elawika'tekemk. Ula maw-lukutimk wetnu'kwalsultijik siawa'tunew teli-elawika'tekemk aqq poqji-mawitu'tij koqoey. Mu pasik Epekwitk etl-lukwek, Melisaa kaqi-peykwi-kina'muet Mi'kma'kik.

Melissa weji-pqotamkiaq tel-lukwet Elawika'tekemk ika'to'q me'sua'taqn teluisik Ula Kjikan Apje'jk (This Town is Small) Puksa'q (Charlottetown) 2019ek. Melissa wtlukwagn ika'tasikip wi'katikn

weskumujik L'nu'k ta'n natawitagatijik agg wiagpisn pilue'l mesua'tagnn Epekwitk, No'pa Sko'sia aqq Maine.

Pikwel-lita'suatk kina'masuti weja'toq Mi'kmawey Elawika'tekemk Tapuiska'qewey Kaskimtlnagnipungekl agg apognmaji wikmag ketantoq koqoey ewe'wk elawika'tekemk. Melissa mekite'tk tel-kina'muaj Elawika'tekemk tapusilijik wkwisk aqq pilue'k wenik. Naji-kisikuite'wl wkwisl wtlukwagn wiaqtek ula me'sua'tagn aqq Cheryl mekit'tk amskwes kitk wtlukwaqnuew toqi-me'sua'tasik.

Melissa welqatk wiaqpit Matues App Iloqaptasit me'sua'tasik. Kejikaw poqji-ankua'toq tel-lukwet elawika'tekemk wiaqa'tu'n milamu'k teli-amal-lukwemk me' aji-pilua'tun sa'qewey lukwaqney aqq kisa'tun piluite'tasiktn L'nuey Amalitaqn. Wjit ula me'sua'taqn weja'toq kisite'taqn amalapaqteskl staqa chevron, maw-sa'qewey kisite'taqn ewe'wasik L'nue'l amalitaqnn, apaja'sik pituimtlnnaqnipunqekl.

Ula mawitasik lukwaqney etek me'sua'taqn-iktuk, amskwesewey mawitu'tij koqoey Elawika'taqatijik Wijikikitultijik E'pitjik.



MELISSA is a Mi'kmaw woman from Abegweit First Nation, located on Epekwitk. Growing up, Melissa was immersed in cultural teachings and was surrounded by a family of basket makers. She began her artistic expression at a young age, making regalia and beadwork, and is skilled in both traditional and contemporary styles. Melissa's exposure to other Mi'kmaq artforms led her to quillwork, a traditional skill in which the ancestors of her maternal grandfather excelled.

Melissa was accepted into an apprenticeship with Mi'kmaq Quill Art in 2015, which was centered on Mi'kmaw pedagogies. This required her quill education to be land-based with knowledge keepers teaching in a hands-on manner. Her education was grounded in the traditional insertion technique and utilized the study of both cultural teachings and formal material culture resources available through historic publications and museums. Quillwork is created by inserting porcupine quills, either dyed or kept natural, into birchbark. The pieces are then edged with quills, sweetgrass or spruce root.

Over the course of her apprenticeship, Melissa learned techniques and protocols related to harvesting raw materials, as well as the complex geometry of traditional design work. Upon completion of her apprenticeship, Melissa has been one of the founders in establishing a community of skilled quill workers. This community seeks to expand awareness of the artform and recently began working on collaborative projects. In addition to this work on Epekwitk, Melissa has been instructing public workshops across the Maritimes.

Melissa launched her professional career as a Mi'kmaq quill artist with her first solo exhibit presented by This Town is Small in Charlottetown in 2019. Melissa's work has been featured in various publications highlighting prominent Indigenous artists and she has participated in various group exhibits in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Maine.

She is heavily influenced by 20th century Mi'kmaw quillwork and she is supported in her harvesting efforts by her family. Melissa is honoured to be passing the art on to her two sons and the broader community. Her oldest son has a piece featured in this exhibit and she is proud to have his work included alongside hers for the first time.

Melissa is excited to be part of the *Matues Revisted* exhibit. She recently expanded her approach to quillwork to include multimedia projections as a mechanism to modernize traditional work and challenge assumptions of Indigenous art. The primary inspiration for her pieces in this show is the chevron, which is the oldest known design in Mi'kmaw material culture, dating back thousands of years.

The collaborative work featured in the show, is the first time the Quill Sisters have worked together on a piece.





EPEKWITKEWAQ, 2020

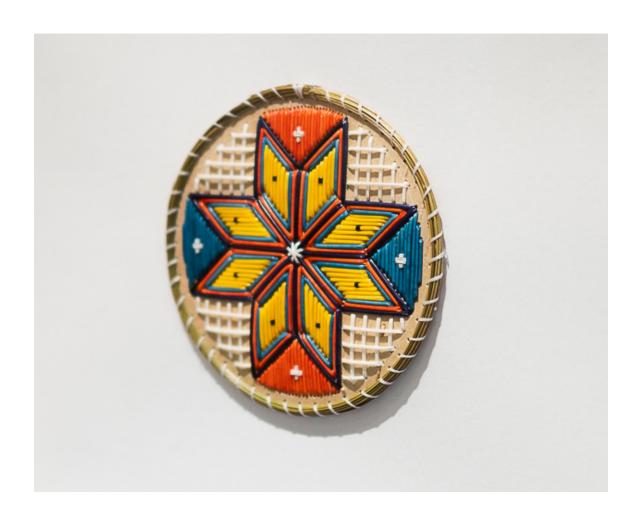
Kawi'k, papkukewey maskwi, welima'qewey msiku, tnuan

Porcupine quills, summer birchbark, sweet grass, sinew

THE BLUE HAT, 2021

Kawi'k, papkukewey maskwi, welima'qewey msiku, tnuan

Porcupine quills, summer birchbark, sweet grass, sineww



SWEETGRASS, 2022

Kawi'k, papkukewey maskwi, welima'qewey msiku, tnuan Porcupine quills, summer birchbark, sweet grass, sinew







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Kay Sark IF YOU BELIEVE, 2022

Kawi'k, papkukewey maskwi, welima'qewey msiku, tnuan

Porcupine quills, summer birchbark, winter birchbark, sweet grass, sinew



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