

Joey Lavadour

Walla Walla

Weaving is often referred to in the context of a “lost art” that has been “regained.” I learn to weave in the traditional style of the Plateau people that goes back more than 10,000 years from tribal elder Carrie Sampson when I was 15 years old. The art of weaving had never been lost to her and her ancestors; a continuum of knowledge flowed directly down to her, and then passed on to me. I feel a great pride and obligation in being entrusted with that knowledge.

Carrie always said that instead of weaving designs in what I thought were traditional colors, I weave together the colors that I see in my dreams. My dreams are vivid and sometimes bring together colors that might seem at odds with making an object to look pleasing, but I find power in holding true to my dream world.

Pendleton wool yarn is a weaving material of great quality. It is of the same place I am, not just by virtue of manufacturing process, but the memories of Pendleton blankets being used by my family and my community. I worked at the mill when I was young and the rooms filled with thousands of spools of yarn created a vibrant backdrop to mindless work.

Dreams of Birds, 2014

Hungarian hemp cordage,
Pendleton blanket yarn,
Pendleton wool blanket binding
9.75 x 6.75 x 6.75 inches

The Path/Trail, 2014

Hungarian hemp cordage,
Pendleton blanket yarn,
Pendleton wool blanket binding
9.75 x 6.75 x 6.75 inches