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Native Arts & Cultures Foundation Presents **Protection: Adaptation and Resistance, May 19 – Aug. 2023**

PORTLAND, Oregon, May 4, 2023 – Native Arts & Cultures Foundation (NACF) is excited to announce the arrival of the nationally touring exhibition, [*Protection: Adaptation and Resistance*](#) at the Center for Native Arts and Cultures (the Center) opening Friday, May 19, with an artist/curator exhibit tour at 6pm and a reception at 7pm.

The exhibit includes a piece that addresses the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Crisis.



Yup'ik artist Amber Webb created a giant qaspeq (a hooded overshirt with a large front pocket made from gut skin, animal hide, or feathered bird skin to keep the wearer warm and dry worn by Alaska Natives), by hand-sewing bedsheets and adorning the garment with the portraits of over **two hundred Indigenous women who have been missing and murdered in Alaska** since 1950. Webb makes visible the grief held within Native communities and the advocacy work happening across North America.

Protection: Adaptation and Resistance centers Indigenous ways of knowing. Working within intergenerational learning groups and as collaborators in vibrant community networks, Alaska's Indigenous artists are invigorating traditional stories in customary arts and proposing resilient futures through design, tattoo, regalia and graphic arts. Artist projects elevate collaboration, allyship, and community as tools of resistance, adaptation, and cultural affirmation. The exhibition explores three themes: Land and Culture Protectors, Activists for Justice and Sovereignty and Resilient Futures.



TASSEL WORKSHOPS



800 SE 10th Avenue Portland, OR 97214

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On **Saturday, May 20th** two workshops led by Traditional weaver and 2022 LIFT Artist grantee [Lily Hope \(Tlingit\)](#) will be offered. Participants will create a Chilkat Tunic Tassel, in two 30-minute workshops. This workshop is for all ages and identities, materials and lunch provided.

[Registration opens Tuesday, May 9th.](#)

“Our lifeways, material culture, and protocols serve as armor to resist efforts to exterminate us. They are rooted in the power to unite and create space for all people. When we break down the efforts of those who work to silo, segregate, and discriminate there is space for all people and all living things.” – Exhibiting Artist Joel Isaak (Dena’ina, Kenai)

Please visit www.nativeartsandcultures.org/events for more information on the exhibiting artists.

The ***Protection: Adaptation and Resistance*** exhibit has been made possible in part by a grant from the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#): Sustaining Humanities through the American Rescue Plan in partnership with the [Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums](#).

About the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation

The Native Arts and Cultures Foundation’s mission is to advance equity and cultural knowledge, focusing on the power of arts and collaboration to strengthen Native communities and promote positive social change with American Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native peoples in the United States. The Foundation has supported nearly 400 artists and arts organizations in 34 states and the District of Columbia. To learn more about the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation, visit www.nativeartsandcultures.org.

About the National Endowment for the Humanities

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at: www.neh.gov.

About the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums

The Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM) is an international association dedicated to preserving and advancing the language, history, culture, and lifeways of Indigenous peoples. Founded in 2010, ATALM maintains a network of support for Indigenous cultural programs, provides professional development training, enables collaboration among tribal and non-tribal cultural institutions, and advocates for programs and funding to sustain the cultural sovereignty of Native Nations. To learn more, visit www.atalm.org.

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