

CONNECTING SPIRITS

“Many Northwest Native artists learn from family members. Some artists seek a mentor willing to accept an apprentice. Others find their teachers in books and in museums, as I have.

I pick up the book and turn to the page I know so well—the woven robe that woke my senses to the beauty of Salish weaving. The colors, so vibrant after 300 years, are skillfully used in the designs. I imagine a woman as the weaver. She is my teacher. I feel her presence as I sit at my loom attempting to replicate her work. I will never know the names of the basket weavers I have chosen to learn from, but I truly believe we are all connected in spirit.”



Betty Pasco Suquamish

CO-CURATING ARTIST

Betty Pasco (Eámalth) is a Suquamish Tribal Elder, Salish wool weaver, traditional basket maker, clothing designer, graphic artist and illustrator. She spent her childhood admiring baskets made by her grandmother, a renowned weaver. Betty began her learning journey of the traditional arts of her ancestors using her grandmother’s baskets to teach herself how to weave. She then learned how to weave traditional wool blankets and robes. She is a renowned weaver who actively mentors younger community members to ensure the ancestors’ knowledge is carried forward to future generations.