



SUQUAMISH MUSEUM

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SQ3Tsyay: 20 Years of Coast Salish Weaving Exhibit Opens at the Suquamish Museum

SUQUAMISH, WA- May 23, 2016 SQ3Tsyay (Weaver's Spirit Power): 20 Years of Coast Salish Weaving by sa'hLa mitSa (Dr. Susan Pavel) opened to the public Sunday, May 22, 2016. The exhibition of over 50 Coast Salish Weavings spans the breadth of Dr. Pavel's work as a weaver and will be on display through Labor Day, Sep 5, 2016.

The Seattle Art Museum, the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, the Squaxin Island Museum, the Skokomish Tribe and many individuals loaned pieces featured in the exhibit. An accompanying video chronicles the public presentation of "du'kWXaXa'?t3w3l" (*duke-ha-ha-tu-wall*) completed in 2006. du'kWXaXa'?t3w3l is the first robe in over 100 years woven using traditionally gathered and processed Mountain Goat Wool.

sa'hLa mitSa (Dr. Susan Pavel) first learned to weave in the Coast Salish style during the summer of 1996. Her Master Teacher was subiyay (Bruce Miller) of the Skokomish Nation. Each summer she would take three full months to produce one ceremonial blanket and then gift it to an elder of the tribe. By the fourth year it was suggested she sell her creations and she started along that path. By the seventh year she was invited to teach weaving classes and has taught well over 1,800 students to date. She has exhibited solo and with others in six museum exhibits to date. sa'hLa mitSa has produced weavings for public and private collectors across the nation, and she continues to weave, when the spirit calls her to weave – she is obedient to that call. She celebrates this year of 2016 with jubilation marking 20 Years of Coast Salish Weaving for her and more importantly to honor SQ3Tsyay – weaver's spirit power.

She is thrilled to celebrate these 20 years with the energy of weaving new pieces. She finds herself waking in the middle of the night brimming with ideas that incorporate the traditional designs, combining customary elements in contemporary ways, and all the while trying to be the strongest link that she can be. The link that ensures the weaving style indigenous to the Coast Salish people, which encompasses Vancouver B.C. south into western Washington and north of the Columbia River, stays alive and thrives.

Thus, she continues the duty and inspiration laid before her by subiyay, her Master Teacher. First and foremost she weaves for ceremonial reasons, both when the spirit moves her and when an occasion such as wedding, birth, death, and life passage arises. She weaves because she can hear, see, and feel THE CALL. It comes from the song of animals, the colors of nature, and the abundance of life experiences as they weave themselves before her. In the end, as the beginning, she weaves because she is obedient to THE CALL.

For more information on the Suquamish Museum visit www.suquamishmuseum.org. For more information about Dr. Susan Pavel visit www.coastsalishweaving.com or email weaving@coastsalishweaving.com

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