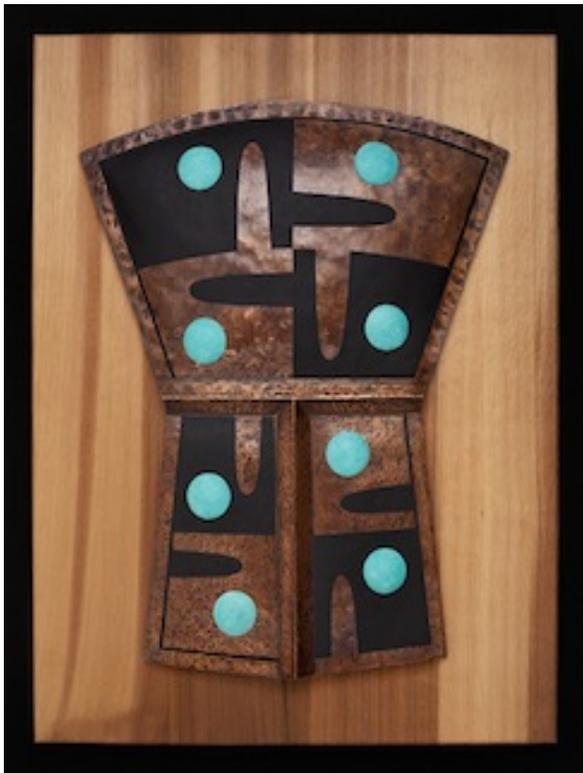




Earlier this month, we celebrated mothers. Today, Salish Weave pays tribute to four Coast Salish artists who are mothers.

They are Susan Point and daughter Kelly Cannell from the Musqueam Nation in Vancouver, as well as Jane Marston and daughter Angela Marston from the Chemainus Nation on Vancouver Island.

Salish Weave is also proud to present recent works from these artists, three of which are new art objects to the collection, namely a copper, a paddle and a root paddle. Also featured are glassworks which have been part of the collection since 2005.



Salmon Head Copper
Susan Point, 2013
Copper: 28" x 22.5" x 1.5"
Panel: 36" x 28" x 1.5"



The shield-like copper has traditionally been a symbol of wealth and status among the First Nations of the Pacific Northwest Coast. The greatest sign of wealth was giving pieces of the copper away at a potlatch. The T-shaped rib of the copper, known as the "Life of the Copper", was never broken and provided the structure onto which the pieces could be later returned and reassembled.

Susan Point's *Salmon Head Copper* is a contemporary rendering of eight salmon heads, four of which are painted black. The salmon's eyes are painted the colour of oxidized copper and add interest to the piece.



Susan Point and Kelly Cannell



Memory, 2005



Transformation, 2005



These collaborative designs by Coast Salish artists Susan Point and her daughter Kelly Cannell are based on the spindle whorl and were submitted to the City of Vancouver's manhole cover competition.

Memory was one of two winning designs.

Both designs were reproduced as limited edition serigraphs (30" x 30"), as well as etched glass vessels (20.5" in diameter x 5" in height) that the Salish Weave collection is proud to own. The vessels currently adorn the dining room of Government House, residence of the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia.

Kerry Mason, MA, art historian, lecturer and curator who lives in Victoria, BC, writes about these works:

"The centre (*of Memory*) is defined by four eyes or eggs representing the four worlds of water, land, air and the supernatural, as well as the four directions, four winds, four states of being and four stages of life, all of which are foundations of Coast Salish culture and art. Radiating from the centre of this spindle whorl design are four tadpoles transforming into frogs. Frogs are important, recurring subjects in Susan Point's work as she herself has the rights to frog dance and song. Frog heralds a new beginning, a new year, and a symbol of both transformation and communication for its amphibious nature".

"The centre (*of Transformation*) is defined by a gradation of tones to the point of light. This forms the centre of the butterfly on whose wings are four eyes or eggs... Radiating from the centre (...) are four wings that also have the veins of feathers and leaves that project the idea of roots as well. The Butterfly, like the Frog, is a symbol of transformation and communication.



Jane Marston’s inspiration for this paddle came from Maureen Davis, a photographer, who captured the amazing event of an octopus eating a seagull with her camera as she was walking along the road at Ogden Point in Victoria, B.C. in April of 2012. The following is an excerpt from Jane’s artist statement:

“At the yearly family summer seafood barbecue, I asked several Elder fishermen if they ever encountered a seagull being eaten by an octopus. They all shook their heads with a vehement no! One fisherman told the story of being grabbed by an octopus and nearly pulled into the ocean, saying if it were not for his friend, he would have been gone.

On the handle of the paddle is a crab and fish. The crab has a start of the full moon. I put this here because the moon is prevalent in the tides of the ocean. These are also some of the food sources the octopus dines on.

I enjoyed making this paddle. I spent many hours working on this design creating it to give movement and flow but always being aware of letting it tell the story”.

Octopus and Seagull Paddle
Jane Marston, 2012

62” in length x 6” in width





Red Dragonfly Root Paddle
Angela Marston, 2012

38" in length x 6" in width



Angela Marston carved this paddle in honour of her Grandmother, Edith Silvey Baines. She writes:

“Her Spirit helper was the Owl so I put Owl around her; she was a knitter so I incorporated some knitting patterns into the design. Her Hulkumenum name, *Shu'mu'hw*, means rain and is represented by the waves. The salmon acknowledges that she was a fisherwoman. She loved the white forest lilies that grow in the spring so I had to include them as well.

A woman of unimaginable strength, she was an oyster farmer, a fisherwoman, a knitter and so much more. She taught me that strength comes from within. She showed me that life has many obstacles and that by persevering we become strong compassionate people”.