

“When beginning to weave, say a prayer and ask your ancestor to come and help you at this time, they will never refuse you.”

—KWITILUT-T, LATE ELDER LENA JACOBS

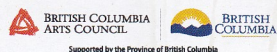
This brochure accompanies the *Weaving the Future* exhibition at the Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art, October 6, 2021 - January 30, 2022.

Weaving Design by Angela George
Photographs by Rachelle George, Poems Photography

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639 Hornby Street, Vancouver
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WEAVING THE FUTURE

ANGELA GEORGE

DEANNA GEORGE

CHIEF JANICE GEORGE

ALEEN SPARROW

DEBRA SPARROW

ANITA TETREAU



When we teach our weaving, we honour our ancestors and let people know that we are here today, not just surviving but thriving. We went into hiding for so many years, and now it is time to share and to educate.

Weaving the Future explores the important role of mentorship, and how sharing traditional knowledge can build a sense of identity and promote healing. This exhibition features three established weavers—Debra Sparrow (Musqueam), Angela George (Tseil-Waututh) and Janice George (Squamish), partnered with their students: Aleen Sparrow, Deanna George, and Anita Tetreau.



Coast Salish robes, woven of mountain goat wool and local materials, were traditionally used for ceremonies, for spiritual protection, and as symbols of identity, nobility and leadership. With the introduction of colonization and commercial goods, the ancient techniques of spinning, dyeing and hand weaving were discouraged and our regalia was confiscated. Today, there is a vibrant renaissance of weaving, and an exciting exploration of new styles, colours and forms. We know our ancestors are with us, as we carry the teachings, and share them with the next generation.

CHEP̓IMIYA SIYAM'
CHIEF JANICE GEORGE
GUEST CURATOR





Anita Tetreau and Chepximiya Siyam' Chief Janice George

“The weaving, the maker, the wearer, and the community are woven together and transformed through the creation and use of the blanket.”

—CHEPXIMIYA SIYAM' CHIEF JANICE GEORGE

“I feel transported, through my weaving, to another time of complete peace. A place where weaving connects me with past generations.”

—ANITA TETREAU

“I feel that I am only the hands through which my ancestors work.”

—DEBRA SPARROW

We are coming for everything our ancestors were denied.

—ALEEN SPARROW



Debra Sparrow and Aleen Sparrow



Deanna George and Angela George

“I think about the people I’m weaving for, like baby blankets are nursery rhymes.”

—DEANNA GEORGE

“Our ancestors had highly sophisticated systems and structures that were designed to sustain traditional knowledge, practices and laws of the land from one generation to the next.”

—ANGELA GEORGE

“You should think of blankets as merged objects. They are alive because they exist in the spirit world. They are the animal. They are part of the hunter; they are part of the weaver; they are part of the wearer.”

—CHEPXIMIYA SIYAM’ CHIEF JANICE GEORGE



Chief Joe Capilano, 1906

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