

# Artist Portfolio

It's Tradish' - Traditional Textile Art

By **Donedin Jackson**



Yeil Koowu Ka Naaxéin Shtooxáltóow - Ravenstail & Chilkat Weaver

Mentee of Lily Hope - Master Weaver

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## Artist Description:

Donedin is a traditionally trained 4th generation Shax'saani Kéek'ennie Jennie Thlunaut Naaxéin Chilkat & Yeil Koowú Ravenstail weaver and fine textile artist, and apprentice of Lily Hope Weaver, Artist Wooshkindein Da.áat.

Named Sakoon by her great-grandmother Cint (Carrie Jackson), the last medicine person of Teslin, Yukon, Donedin Jackson was born in the treaty 7 occupied lands temporarily known as Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada and currently resides in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. She is a Ravenstail & Chilkat student, weaver, and teacher, and a Tlingit language learner.

Granddaughter to Wilma Magill, she is an inland Tlingit born on her fathers side, raised in southern Alberta with her mother, stepfather, older brother and younger half-sister. She began weaving in her ancestral arts and learning her traditional language to decolonize her life in 2019.

As a living success story of the Canadian Governments' attempts to destroy the traditional peoples of this continent, she is also a testament to indigenous resilience and integrity. In her journey to decolonize herself and her life, she has had the great honour to work with uniquely gifted Traditional Knowledge Keepers.

Donedin started out studying Chilkat and Ravenstail weaving self-guided until she came across Lily Hope, her mentor and instructor, offering classes online. She immediately signed up for classes and felt herself being welcomed by a supportive and giving community that Lily had created. A dream was realised on January 19, 2023 when she joined over 20 trained weavers gathered in Juneau Alaska to support and facilitate the completion and dancing of the Chilkat Child Size Robe's, currently on display at the Juneau Douglas City Museum from February 4, 2023 to Feb 25, 2023 & May 5- 2023 to November 30, 2023.

She has been honoured to showcase a piece of her work titled - Chilkat Protector Mask: For the Missing and Murdered Indigenous & Two Spirit People, on tour with the Bunnell Street Arts Center from May 15, 2022 until January 31, 2025. She was also the recipient of the "Canada Council for the Arts: Travel component of the Creating, Knowing and Sharing: the Arts and Cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples Program in 2022" which allowed her the ability to join the weaving cohort in Alaska for 2 whole weeks of weaving during the workshop in the Winter of 2023 to complete the Chilkat Child Size Robe that she have been weaving all of 2021. Traditional and contemporary materials serve as living documents, a testament to indigenous resilience and integrity.

Donedin is now one of over 30 artists that have the technical and spiritual skill and knowledge to weave a full sized Chilkat ceremonial robes, and has begun her teaching journey by travelling to indigenous communities to do demonstrations and workshops.

## Works Currently On Exhibit

## Chilkat Naaxéin Protector Mask: For the Missing & Murdered Indigenous & Two Spirit People



Date Completed: April 2021

Medium: 100% authentically prepared thigh spun wool warp, bamboo silk weft in coal, ivory, and rouge. Fringe finished with copper cones.

Model: Artist

Tour Calendar:

Homer, AK - The Pratt Museum, June 11 - September 2022

Anchorage, AK - The Anchorage Museum, October 21 - end of March, 2023

Portland, OR - Native Arts and Culture Foundation, Summer 2023

Tulsa, OK - Tulsa Living Arts, September - Fall 2023

Santa Fe, NM - Pending: Institute of American Indian Arts - Fall 2023

Juneau, AK - Alaska State Museum, Summer 2024

## Chilkat Naaxéin Protector Mask: For the Missing & Murdered Indigenous & Two Spirit People



Image: Completed Chilkat Naaxéin Protector Mask

The significance of creating A Chilkat Naaxéin Protector Mask woven in red, the only colour our ancestors can see, is a nod to documenting the current events of the coronavirus pandemic and the MMIW2SP using an ancient art practice in a new way. The piece, Chilkat Naaxéin Protector Mask: for Missing and Murdered Indigenous and Two Spirit Peoples, is a work of fine art originally designed and developed by my weaving instructor Lily Hope.

Every sitch in this mask represents the unknown and untold stories of those who have been taken. Made from traditional and contemporary materials, each serve as living documents, a testament to indigenous resilience and integrity. Currently showcased on tour with the Bunnell Street Arts Center from May 15, 2022 until January 31, 2025.

Child Size Chilkat Naaxéin Robe - For The Stolen: A Journey Into Healing



Image: February 1, 2023 - Sealaska Heritage Clan House - Dancing of the Robes - Model:  
Artist


Date Completed: February 4, 2023

Medium: 220 yards of traditionally thigh spun Chilkat Naaxéin warp made with Merino Wool & Honourably Harvested Cedar processed, prepped, and spun by artist - 200 hours

Warp hung on loom March 2022 and again (after the first one burned in a tragic vehicle accident) September 2022. Weaving began on September 1, 2022 and completed on February 4, 2023. Had robe <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> completed to participate in the robe completion workshop.

Travelled to Juneau on February 19, 2023 with robe & finish robe with weaver colleagues, peers, and masters. Robe was then danced in ceremony February 1, 2023 at Sealaska Clan House and is on display at the Juneau-Douglas City Museum until Feb 25, 2023 - EXTENDED to November 2023.

Ceremony at the Sealaska Clan House can be viewed on their YouTube Page, link included below:

 [Chilkat Dancing-of-the-Robes Ceremony with Lily Hope](#)



## Child Size Chilkat Naaxéin Robe Weaving Process and Progress

### Honourable Cedar Harvest



Gifted with the knowledge of how to honourably harvest traditional materials - shown above is my very first cedar harvest.

## Cedar Processing



After harvest, weavers age their cedar 1 year before processing. To process, the cedar is submerged in a water bath and cooked just below boiling for a minimum of 3 days. I prefer to use a slow cooker that isn't used for food to prepare mine.



This helps remove the sap from the cedar and also saturate the fibres for easy splitting.

Each piece has to be split down into dental floss width to be spun with the fibre into weft as the base for Chilkat Naxein weaving.

This provides the warp with structure as well as anti-bacterial and anti-microbial properties as well as including a spiritual element for healing.

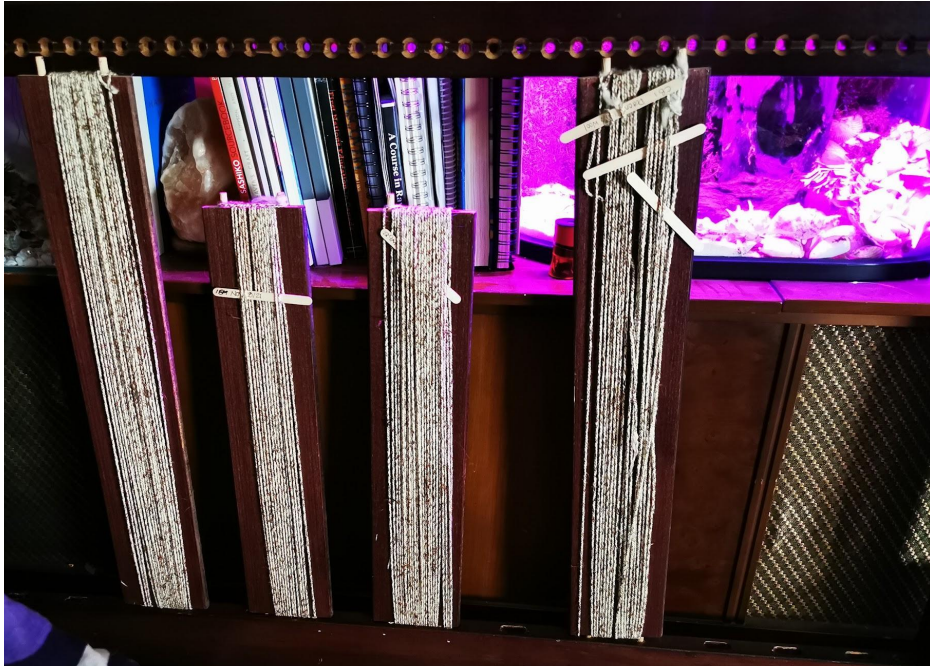


Once the cedar has cooked for 3 days, it is then split with a pin or fingernail into strips. Each length of strip is sorted into piles to be used as needed when thigh spinning. When processing the cedar is kept wet when processing to allow for easy splitting.



Image: Processed dry cedar

## Chilkat Naaxéin Warp



Chilkat Naaxéin warp is traditionally spun on the thigh an inch at a time. The whole Child Size Robe used 220 yards of warp. The warp shown is on warp boards drying after being spun by the artist.



They are then wound into cakes or balls, waiting for the artist to hang on a loom.

## Hanging the Warp



Image: Upcycled baby crib into loom with warps hung.

The artist created a loom using an upcycled baby crib and hung warp on the loom to begin weaving robe March 2022 & September 2022.

## Child Size Robe Completion Workshop



Travelled to Juneau with robe January 19, 2023 & finished during the robe completion workshop with peers and mentors.



Image: Weavers posing holding the robes they completed during the completion workshop.

Robe was then danced in ceremony February 1, 2023 at Sealaska Clan House and displayed at Juneau-Douglas City Museum until Feb 25, 2023 - EXTENDED to November 2023

## Other Notable Works

## Ravenstail Yeil Koowu Headdress



Image: Ravenstail Yeil Koowu Headdress Front

All Our Ancestors pattern provided by Lily Hope

Medium: Traditionally thigh spun ravenstail warp made by artist. Bamboo silk weft.

Reclaimed white rabbit fur. Mother of Pearl accents.

In the Jackson Family Trust held by Wilma Magill.



Image: Ravenstail Yeil Koowu Headdress Back



# Ravenstail Yeł Koowu Headdress With Chilkat Naaxéin Eye

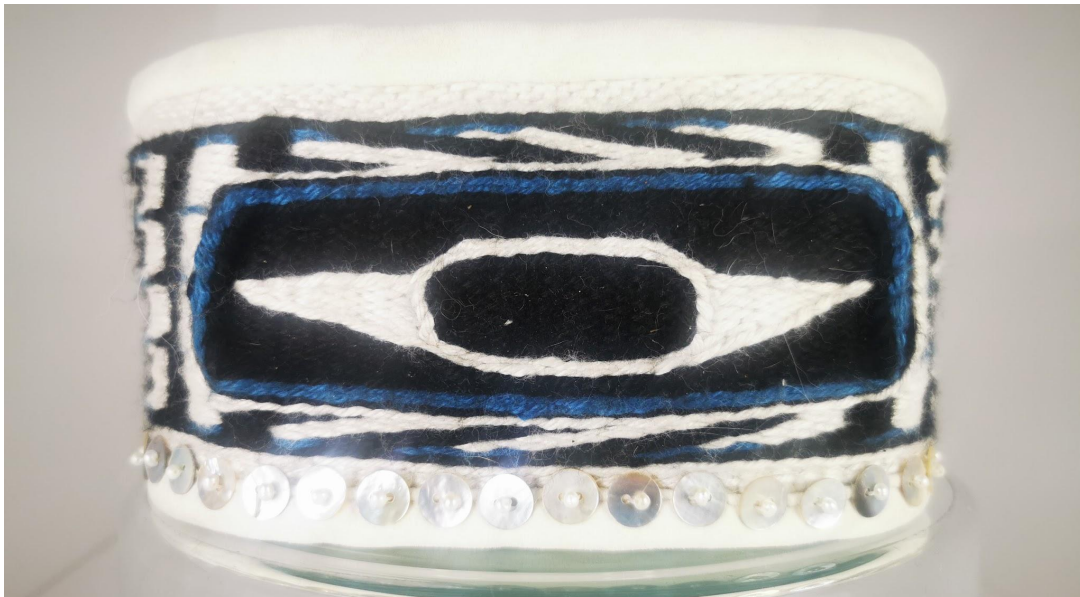


Image: Front Of Headdress



Left Image: Left Side of Headdress    Right Image: Right Side of Headdress



Image: Back side of headdress.

## Chilkat Naaxéin Collarbone Duster Circle Series Earrings



Image: Chilkat Naaxéin Collarbone Duster Earrings Left to Right: Sapphire, Saffron, Moss

Medium: Linen warp, bamboo silk weft, 14KG Triangles

## Chilkat Naaxéin Earrings: Birchbark In the Snow



Image: Chilkat Naaxéin Earrings - One Of A Kind

Medium: Chilkat Naaxéin warp, bamboo silk weft, mother of pearl accents, 925S Triangles

## Ravenstail Yeil Koowu Raven Steals The Light Pendant Boxes



Image: Pendant series woven on Chilkat Naaxéin warp

Pendants in the private collection of Lingit Language Learner Students. Each pendant was woven from the same ball of variegated yarn (except red) giving a beautiful ombre effect.

## Chilkat Naaxéin Pendant



Image: Chilkat Naaxéin Pendant with Bunchberry pattern

Medium: Chilkat Naaxéin warp, bamboo silk weft.

Gifted to co-village resident as regalia for naming ceremony. Currently in private collection..