

# Amanda Smith

## Biography

Amanda Smith is from the Nooksack Tribe. Her grandma, Betty Jimmy, taught her how to weave. Her first basket was a twined basket. She enjoys new challenges in weaving, whether it be trying something new or a different style. She likes to make cedar bark hats, bracelets, baskets and cedar bark rose earrings. She believes it is important to weave while one is happy, so she goes for a jog before she weaves; or maintains a healthy work out schedule.

## Artist Statement

All are connected. When we gather cedar and we thank god for allowing us to gather the cedar. We thank god for giving us the tools to not only survive, but thrive. We also don't take more then what is needed. When we gather cedar we only take a small strip of the tree so the tree can still heal. When you go in the forest you can see that there are trees that have healed. This has been our way of life since time immemorial. Weaving and cedar has been part of our culture since the beginning of time. I know we call cedar trees people. They are sensitive to our emotions, and our feelings; so it is really important to work with a good mind and mood. It is important to pray before doing cedar work. Just a short prayer is good. When you think about how cedar work is well preserved you want to do your best. A basket can last longer than your lifetime because someone will preserve it. It is a part of our rich history. Just like women are. Women are sacred and birth our future generations. The fact that native American women are endangered because of how we are prioritized in society tells me that assimilation is still imminent and a major threat to our people.