

Qataliña Jackie Schaeffer

Biography

Qataliña Jackie Schaeffer, an Iñupiaq from Kotzebue, Alaska, is a mother of six and a grandmother of eight. Raised in a traditional Iñupiaq family, Qataliña uses that worldview to maneuver in the world today. This worldview flow focuses on community: family, self vs. the western worldview of self, family, community, allowing the inter-connection of our ancestors to today.

Artist Statement

During the creation of this atiqluk, her thoughts drifted to all the lost and stolen sisters. Using the guidance of her ancestors to honor and acknowledge all the murdered and missing indigenous women and girls. Each cut, stitch and fold of the red fabric, carries the pain and loss, but also love and prayers are woven into the outcome. The Inuit trim reflects the ancient marking of our Arctic women. These tattoos were woven in time from grandmother to granddaughter – creating a bond through time. The fringe represents the grass blowing in the wind. The caribou button represents our interconnectivity to all living things. May the spirits of our sisters fly and may we never stop honoring and acknowledging them in all we do.