

Nikanot Sylvia Tatshama Peasley

Biography

Enrolled Confederated Tribes of the Colville reservation: Nikanot Sylvia Tatshama Peasley is descended from Chief Joseph Band of Nez Perce, Moses Columbia, Umatilla, San Poil.

Born in Nespelem, WA, Peasley is a 64-year-old mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Retired after 43 years, she is a traditional cultural plant, history, and archaeology specialist. She has spent the majority of her life drawing, painting, and now working with deer hide.

Artist Statement

I pondered on what to paint on the knife case, to emote the feelings that erupt when a loved one becomes missing or murdered.

Pretty powerful pain. So I began to sketch, a woman sobbing into a red dress (the red dress is a symbol of the missing and murdered indigenous women and girls movement) and as I painted I had to stop for a bit because the tears came as all those old painful feelings surfaced ... "say her name"... I miss you Jolene all the time I'm so sad that you were murdered so horribly... but my voice is for you and all the others who are missing or murdered.