

DEANA D. DARTT, PhD

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For two decades my work has focused on decolonizing initiatives in museums and cultural organizations. From the combined perspectives of anthropologist, museum professional and Indigenous woman, my goal has been to help shape the decolonizing movement underway in the fields of anthropology and museum studies—which has manifested visually in public art and cultural institutions. I see myself as part of today's Indigenous art activism and social practice approaches, which ultimately subvert the dominant discourse which holds Native people to a past, static and Eurocentric narrative. Moving beyond visual representations, my work now strives to center Native leadership in all areas through courses that teach cultural sensitivity and help non-Native organizations who control Indigenous lands and resources to align their goals, values, and resources toward Native leadership and collective liberation.

SELECT PROJECT LIST

- 2024-2025 *Reclaiming El Camino: Native Resistance in the Missions and Beyond*. Exhibition for the Autry Museum of the American West, Los Angeles, CA
- 2021-2024 Wishtoyo Foundation, Santa Paula, CA *Indigenous California Narrative Project*.
- 2023 *American Alliance of Museums: Standards for Museums with Native American Collections (SMNAC)*. School for Advanced Research: Indian Arts Research Center, Santa Fe, NM
- 2020 *Decolonization Initiative for Native American Gallery Reinstallation Team*. Field Museum of Natural History. Chicago, IL
- 2019 *Looking Back, Looking Forward*. Summative evaluation of Native American Arts Granting in California. Humboldt Area Foundation: Native Cultures Fund. Arcata, CA

CURATION AND INTERPRETATION

Curation/Interpretive Planning, Live Oak Consulting

- The Museum at Fort Garland: Experience Plan*. History Colorado, Denver, CO
- Reclaiming El Camino: Native Resistance in the Missions and Beyond*. Exhibition Autry Museum of the American West, Los Angeles, CA
- Indigenous Values of the Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo People*. Graton Rancheria. Rohnert Park, CA
- Neuwe Ghani Western Shoshone Experience Plan*. Elko, NV.
- Forest of Dreams: Chinook and Ainu Woodcarving*. Portland Japanese Garden. Portland, OR
- Our Hearts are in this Land: Native Life in Western Oregon*. Lane County Historical Museum and University of Oregon Museum Studies Students. Eugene, OR.
- The Chumash at Hel'apunitse*. Bacara Resort and Spa. Santa Barbara, CA.

Curator of Native American Art, Portland Art Museum, Portland, OR

2011-2016

- Development of collaborative relationships with local, Chinook and other Native stakeholders
- Established a Native American Advisory Board
- Established the Center for Contemporary Native Art as a space of engagement with Native peoples, centering their goals and voices
- Managed Native American Art Council activities and fundraising
- Managed accession and cataloging of the Butler Collection (5,000 objects)
- Managed IMLS digitization grant for the Native American Collection and website access
- Developed docent, youth and adult education programs relevant to Native materials
- Managed team of graduate student interns, Mellon Fellow, and Mellon-funded collections assistant for research and cataloging of the Northwest Coast collection
- Several reinstallations of the Native American Galleries using indigenous methodologies

for the inclusion of Native voice

- Exhibitions include:
 - *Native Fashion Now: North American Indian Style (originated at PEM)*
 - *The Art and Artistic Community of Lillian Pitt*
 - *Contemporary Native Photographers and the Edward Curtis Legacy*
 - *Restoring the Breath: Coast Salish Wool Weavers*
 - *Dene Bahi Naabahi: Native Survivance*
 - *Thlatwa Thlatwa: Indigenous Currents*

**Curator Native American Ethnology, Burke Museum Seattle, WA
2008-2011**

- Managed graduate and undergraduate student interns
- Managed grants for the ethnology division
- Worked with education team on Native American programs
- Managed bi-annual Native advisory meetings
- Exhibitions include:
 - *Truth versus Twilight: Native Responses to Werewolf Fiction*
 - *Across the Oceans of Time: Ainu and Pacific Northwest Canoe Revitalization*
 - *Indigenous Voices Reply: The 1909 Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition*

PUBLICATIONS

- In prep *Subverting the Dominant Narrative: Museums, Trauma and Activism in Coastal California*. University of Nebraska Press, Forthcoming.
- 2024 *Reclaiming Ch'alayush Through Applied Decolonization: Intervening and Indigenizing the Narrative in and Around Californias Sites of Conscience*, in *Missions as Heritage*. Fordham Press, NY, NY.
- 2023 *Native American Art from the Thomas W. Weisel Family Collection*. DeYoung Museum Press. <https://www.famsf.org/publications/native-american-art-thomas-w-weisel-collection>
- 2014 Deana Dartt and Mike Murawski. "Object Stories: Connecting Collections with Communities." In *Interpreting Native American History and Culture at Museums and Historic Sites*, edited by Raney Bench.
- 2011 California's Sites of Conscience: An Analysis of Mission Museum Narratives. *Museum Anthropology*, vol. 34 no.2, pp 97–108, Fall 2011.
- 2006 Deana Dartt-Newton and Jon Erlandson. "Little Choice for the Chumash: Cattle, Colonialism, and Coercion in Mission Period Santa Barbara." *American Indian Quarterly*, vol. 30 no. 3-4 pp 416-430, Sum-Fall 2006.