

I call this piece: Theetryq' ts'à' gwiyeħ'at choo / Copper and the Queen

This is a multimedia piece consisting of particle board, steel, copper, porcupine quills, pennies, white heart trade beads, abalone, acrylic paint, shell buttons.

It symbolizes our relationship with the Crown, how we value copper and measure wealth.

Mahsi Cho to my good friend and mentor, Marie Wustner for pushing me past my comfort zone and creating space for me.

Theetryq' ts'à' gwiyeħ'at choo / Copper and the Queen

Copper  
Value  
Queens  
And valor  
Shields of wealth  
Distribution of health  
Our lives were balanced  
Until you brought Hell  
Cloaked in black and white  
Stories they tell  
Of evil sights  
And devil deeds  
Pray our sins away  
Tickets to "heaven" on layaway  
To be paid off through assimilation  
Self mutilation  
and spiritual assassination  
Our children pick up  
The broken pieces that have been  
chipped away by shame  
The youth create mosaics  
Neon flame  
Calling in spirits and  
Healing rain  
Nurturing seeds  
On ancestral terrain  
Roots stretch past pain  
Our connection  
Will  
Never

Be  
Broken  
Break  
Copper to show our dissatisfaction  
Wear disgust like its fashion  
Laws of the land shattered  
The laws that really matter  
It's been spoken  
By Matriarchs invoking  
Leii Nahshii, Geh'an Vidzaih eh'ok, T'o Nagah'ok/ Our dreams, our spirit, our existence

Nagoohiindaak, Melissa Frost, is a descendent of Shirlee Frost, her mother Alice Frost and her mother Joanne Njootli. She comes from the Wolf clan/Ch'ichyàa from the Vuntut Gwich'in First Nation of Old Crow, Yukon. Melissa is an aunty and a cousin who works for mother earth and our future generations. She has forged a career out of her passion for the arts and community work with youth. Melissa tries to channel traditional teachings and positive, hopeful messages when writing or performing.