

Weckuwapasihtit (Those Yet to Come)

Geo Neptune and Brianna Smith (Passamaquoddy)

2022

TRANSCRIPT

Brianna Smith

What I was really nervous about was how spirit was going to come through. I hope I don't regret this. I hope I don't regret this. What are other people ~~are~~ going to think?

Aaron Dana

It wasn't even necessarily a want. It was like a calling. I knew that I had to have something.

Geo Neptune

As he started to draw the shapes, I was like, well, the whale tail is emerging. The whales were our grandmothers. They were some of our first teachers. They brought us many of our songs.

Brianna Smith

It was my aunt, my daughter, and my two cousins that are my daughter's age. And I sat there for a minute with my mask on, and my daughter was looking at me weird. Like, "Why are you in here with your mask on? We're all in each other's bubble." And then I said, "Hey, Elaina, guess what I did?" "What momma?" Then I took my mask off and all of the little girls were just like, "Oh! Is that real? Is that permanent? Oh my god, it's so pretty. Oh my god, it's prettier when you smile. I love it!" It was like something I had lost, something that was stolen, was gifted back to me. And it felt like it just belonged there. I can't stop looking at it because I'm so happy to have it...back, have it back.

Aaron Dana

I didn't ask for permission to get them, through work. There was nothing in our policies that would restrict me from work. Some public officials had some big concerns about me working as a police officer in our community, as a tribal police officer in our community, wearing facial tattoos, markings. And also going to Federal BIA Police Academy, there was concerns that my markings, were not going to be allowed, as well. To share the markings with my sons was a huge thing. Just seeing the similarities of their markings to my markings and how the energies and the spirituality was connected, just through my offspring. It's just helped me feel a closer-ness to my sons, a more connectedness to my sons.

Geo Neptune

Nuhkomossok naka nmuhsomsok
kci woliwon ciw wikhikoneyal
naka kci woliwon ntolonapemok Māori
ciw athasikil--ciw athasikuwi-pisun.

Kci-niwesq naka kci-minotu,
wicuhkeman Chris.

Kahkakuhs naka muwin--wicuhkeman Chris.

Wicuhkeman ciw athasikil; milan kkinuwehtakonok naka knopisun.

Kci woliwon.

Kci woliwon.

Kci woliwon.

Brianna Smith

Your granddaughter has a surprise for you.

Dolly Apt

Yes, I heard.

Brianna Smith

So I'm gonna take my mask off to show you my markings. What do you think?

Dolly Apt

What do I think? I think I've seen that marking before. Oh my god. I like it. I like it because it has so much meaning for me. It's something that I've seen. I can't explain it really yet. You knocked me off, when you showed that to me! In my experiences growing up here, I learned that it's the children that are gonna bring it back. And from what I can tell that's exactly what is happening, because until you told me about this, I have been... It's been totally erased from our minds what kind of culture, what kind of things we did way back when, before the invasion, before they came here and took it all away, trying to humanize us. And for me, in fact, it was more dehumanizing than anything else. Because it's been what, three or four centuries now, since this has happened. And it's gonna take a while to gather it all back.

Brittany Sockabsin

I think a lot of people are too scared to ask. I mean, I was scared to ask. The outside world tells us, being light skinned or not having dark hair, or dark eyes, or not growing up speaking the language, not knowing how to tan hides, not being native enough, you know? And it scares people.

Geo Neptune

Hoo! Very cold water. So when I sat down to receive my finger markings, inner spirit told me, don't say anything, you don't need to. We're telling Uenuku everything he needs to know. Just trust him. We've given him the designs. He's already seen them. So you just sit back and relax. I would always see my friend Tanya cut it. They would just kind of hold it loosely so they can...

Brittany Sockabsin

Scrape it. Beautiful. And when I had the tattoos done, something also changed within me. I was more confident.

Geo Neptune

Do not be too delicate with it.

Brittany Sockabsin

And it is empowering to be like, this is what my ancestors did and I'm doing it now.

Brianna Smith

It's really scary to get markings on your face. There are plenty of us doing it. You don't have to do it by yourself. You don't have to do it in hiding anymore.

Geo Neptune

We are following our footsteps backwards to reclaim parts of our culture.

Brianna Smith

We're the generation that's really been able to freely and openly reclaim our identities and seek those out without repercussions.

Brittany Sockabsin

We're here. We're still here.

Brianna Smith

It's healing to reclaim this identity.

Geo Neptune

Gonna lay eggs, every day.

It's no longer just your responsibility to learn as much as you can. It's your responsibility to pass on as much as you can.

Nuhkomossok naka nmuhsomsok; /
Kci-woliwon ciw wikhikoneyal, kisi monuwehkiyaq ciw nilun;/
naka kci-woliwon ntolonapemok Māori ciw athasikuwi-pisun. /

Kci-niwesq naka Kci-montu,/
Wichukeminen pomawsuwinuwok; ckuwiphan knopisun ciw kansuhsuwok. /

Kci-woliwon.
Kci-woliwon.
Kci-woliwon./

Nilun oc-tokec nuleyotomonen--ciw weckuwapasihitit./

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