



# W30– No Word for Art: Exploring First Nations Creative Traditions

Friday April 6

1 class • 10 am – 4pm

**Member and Non-Member Prices**

Adult \$75

## Artist Bio:

Naomi Smith • Chippewas of Nawash • Fish Clan •



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Naomi is an Indigenous Artisan and Educator. She has a passionate living interest in Native American beadwork, adornment and textiles. Naomi is actively involved in educating others about the ways of the First Nations people of the Great Lakes Region from a historical and contemporary perspective often through the story of beads. For over 20 years Naomi has created traditional Native designs and objects using natural or glass beads, Sweetgrass, Birch Bark, Porcupine Quill, Hair and Hide, always valuing these Sacred materials throughout her creative process.

Naomi has exhibited her artwork internationally at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), Memorial Hall Museum in Deerfield, MA, Castellani Art Museum, University of Niagara, NY, Mohegan Culture Week in Uncasville, CT and acted as guest lecturer for special NMAI events in New York and Washington, DC. She has taught and lectured throughout North America

including Bead and Button Show, Royal Ontario Museum, Peel Art Gallery, Museum & Archives (PAMA), Bata Shoe Museum, Wellington County Museum and Archives, Jake Thomas Learning Centre (Six Nations Brantford), Tom Thompson Gallery, Art Gallery of Guelph, Canadian National Exhibition, Kitchener Waterloo Museum, Embroidery Association of Canada in Ottawa and Newfoundland, and was honoured to be part of the 2017 Adaka Arts Festival in Whitehorse Yukon. Naomi is the Artist in Residence at Joseph Schneider House Historical Site for 2018.

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## Artist Statement:

“Honouring our traditions is my voice within and beyond my Culture and Community. Traditionally there is no word for “art” in Native languages yet artistry and visual expression are critical in defining who we are as First Nations people. It is this path I wish to exemplify through my teachings and my work.”

## Course Materials:

### All materials included in cost of program

#### Workshop **A** - Deer Hide Tassel Mania:

This deer hide tassel can be used as a decorative feature on a favourite bag, as a zipper pull or a keychain. Basic leather working skills will be explored along with how to make quick and easy tubular peyote using large seed beads. The combination of indigenous skills with exotic deer hide creates an effective decorative finished piece with a decidedly Native flair. Traditional Indigenous teachings will be part of the overall learning experience



#### Workshop **B** -Deer Hide Medicine Bag:

A medicine bag is an ancient item that spiritually represents the person who wears it. Medicine bags come in all manner of sizes, shapes and style. They generally are made of hide from deer, elk, moose or bison. Individuals are encouraged to make their own medicine bag. Participants will learn how to construct a personal size medicine bag from soft buttery deer hide based on older style patterns and intriguing weaving techniques from the Woodlands cultures of the Great Lakes Region. Traditional Indigenous teachings will be part of the overall learning experience.

