

DEANA D. DARTT

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From the combined perspectives of anthropologist, museum professional and Native woman, my goal is to shape the decolonizing movement underway in the fields of anthropology and museum studies—made visible in public art and cultural institutions. My work asserts that with the activation of public sites through meaningful collaboration and intentional public engagement, Indigenous art activism and social practice approaches ultimately subvert the dominant discourse which holds Native people to a past, static and Eurocentric narrative. By emphasizing resilience and revitalization, all museums with Native cultural materials can engage in a discourse relevant to, and in collaboration with Native communities.

SELECT PROJECT LIST

Humboldt Area Foundation: Native Cultures Fund. Arcata, CA
Centering California Native Values. Summative evaluation of Native American Arts Granting in California. Funded by the Hewlett Foundation.

San Diego Museum of Man. San Diego, CA
Decolonizing 101: Native American Cultural Sensitivity. Funded by the Institute for Museums and Library Services.

Portland Japanese Garden, Portland, OR
Decolonizing 101: Native American Cultural Sensitivity Training in prep for *Forest of Dreams*, LOMC curated exhibition and program development.

Renate Exhibit Design, Portland, OR
Experience Plan for San Diego Museum of Man.

School for Advanced Research: Indian Arts Research Center, Santa Fe, NM
American Alliance of Museums: Guidelines for Museums with Native American Collections. Funded by the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation

CURATION, EXHIBITIONS AND HERITAGE PRESERVATION

Independent Curation

Forest of Dreams: Chinook and Ainu Woodcarving (June 2019) Portland Japanese Garden. Portland, OR

Somos la Luz: Lantinx and Indigenous Women Artists (Aug 2019) Tucson Museum of Contemporary Art. Tucson, AZ.

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

- Outreach and deep collaborative relationships with local, Chinook and other Native stakeholders
- Created a Native American Advisory Board
- Created the Center for Contemporary Native Art as a space of engagement with Native peoples, centering their goals and voices
- Managed the Native American Art Council activities and fundraising

- Oversaw the 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 a 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*

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2017 School for Advanced Research, Anne Ray Fellowship. Book manuscript in process, *Subverting the Dominant Narrative: Museums, Trauma and Activism in Coastal California*.
- 2016 National Endowment for the Humanities for *Art of Resilience* exhibition (\$350,000)
- 2014 Andrew W. Mellon award for Native American initiatives (\$500,000)
- 2014 Institute for Museum and Library Services, Community Anchor Grant, to support the Center for Contemporary Native Art (\$150,000)
- 2012 Institute for Museum and Library Services, Native American Collection Digitization grant (\$150,000)
- 2009 American Association of Museums, Museum Community Collaborations Abroad Grant “*Sharing Traditions Across the Waters of Time*”, Ainu and Pacific Northwest Tribal Cultural Exchange (\$110,000).

PUBLICATIONS

- In prep *Subverting the Dominant Narrative: Museums, Trauma and Activism in Coastal California*. University of Nebraska Press, Forthcoming.
- In prep Weisel Collection Catalog for the DeYoung Museum. Editor. Forthcoming.
- In prep *Reclaiming the Camino on Our Terms*. In *Visualizing Genocide*, edited by Nancy Marie Mithlo and Yve Chavez. Routledge Press. Forthcoming.
- 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.

EDUCATION

- 2009 **PhD Anthropology** (Cultural), University of Oregon, Eugene. Dissertation title: *Negotiating the Master Narrative: Museums and the Indian/Californio Community of California's Central Coast*.
- 2007 **Certificate in Museum Studies** (Arts Administration), University of Oregon, Eugene.
- 2003 **M.A. Anthropology**, University of Oregon, Eugene.
- 2001 **B.A. Anthropology** (Archaeology), cum laude and departmental honors, University of Oregon, Eugene.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, Museum Studies Program, University of Oregon

2017 *Museum Theory*

2017 *Exhibition Planning and Design*

Lecturer, Tribal Museum Studies Program, Northwest Indian College

2014 *Introduction to Tribal Museum Studies*

2014 *Native American Collections Management*

Assistant Professor, American Indian Studies, University of Washington

2011 *Native Peoples of California*

2011 *Indians and Museums*

2010 *Native American Art History*

2009 *Indians and Museums*