



Biography:

Jessiray Wheeler is a descendant of both the Colville Confederated Tribes and the Hoh Tribe. Due to current blood quantum restrictions, she remains unenrolled. She lives on the Spokane Reservation on land assigned to her family during the allotment era. She has shown her art in the *We Are Still Here Art Show* (2015 and 2018) and has also shown at the *Gathering At the Falls Art Show* (2019). She spends her time making art, writing poetry, learning the Spokane language, and teaching her two children about the traditions her community is collectively reclaiming.

Artwork Description:

The Huddle is depicting the artist's own experience as a Native youth in the foster-care system and with family visits. When it was time to leave each other again, her family would huddle in a circle and pray—a new ceremony borne out of need. In this way, they were able to maintain a feeling of connection to each other and to their culture while living in diaspora.