



Danika Naccarella Bio

Danika Naccarella is a Northwest Coast artist descending from Nuxalk & Gwa'sala-Nakwaxda'xw ancestry from her mother and father's side. Danika first began her art practice in the 7th grade when she moved to her mother's home community of Bella Coola in 2009. While attending Acwsalcta School for her high school years she had the opportunity to create and learn Nuxalk art, culture and language. Danika enjoyed painting with acrylic mediums and continued to dedicate her spare time to painting Nuxalk designs drawn by her art teachers. Eventually, her Nuxalk art teachers encouraged her to start learning how to create her own designs. That began her studies of Northwest Coast art forms, from books to museum research. When the time came to pursue post-secondary education, it was without a doubt that Danika would decide to enroll in the Freda Diesing School of Northwest Coast Art, at Northwest Community College in Terrace, B.C.

While attending Freda Diesing School, she was instructed and mentored from Stan Bevan, Ken McNeil, Dean Heron, and Dempsey Bob. She learned the very basics of Northwest Coast 2D form line drawing, knife making, and basic wood carving in her first year, which gave Danika a very solid foundation. It was in her second year when they began more complex studies and projects such as bentwood box designs and crest mask carving. After completing the Freda Diesing Diploma program, she returned home to her community where she became the Nuxalk art teacher's assistant. She helped plan and teach Nuxalk art lessons for Kindergarten - Grade 12.

In the summer of 2017 Danika was accepted into the Earthline Tattoo Training Residency, where 6 participants became qualified cultural tattoo practitioners which included design application, cultural safety, and the health aspects of tattooing. Danika learned traditional hand poke and skin stitch tattooing. Culture is very strong in the Bella Coola Valley where the Nuxalk Nation strives on teaching and reviving our traditional ways of life. Danika is now reviving traditional tattooing in the Nuxalk community and ensuring that the culture is being translated in a proper and healthy way to bring strength to indigenous identity.

Danika is currently working at Acwsalcta School as a teaching artist. Integrating and creating an art curriculum for the students. She is also working on larger mural projects around the school involving student participation. The projects will focus on awareness to suicide prevention using Nuxalk traditional designs & many other topics around our school. While Danika continues to work within the community, she still creates her own paintings and carvings, but hopes to begin expanding her art practice by working with various artists and experimenting with new mediums including jewelry.

