

Alpha Visual Art Students Weaving with Colleen Johnson (Heiltsuk) & Laura Borders (Cherokee):

27 Ceramics & Sculpture 10 -12 students

I met Colleen Johnson (Heiltsuk) in the street on Commercial Drive. She sells her woven jewellery in Grandview Park, in Vancouver. Colleen is a student, sole-support mother of 3 children and artist. Laura Borders (Cherokee) is the sister of a teacher at Alpha, Tracy Borders. Laura has been weaving for many years and visited here from Oklahoma which is why we had the opportunity to work with her. That both artists are women is no coincidence. Too often students only know the names of male artists.

My education as an art student at SFU focussed on European, male artist and art history. Our students are from a diversity of cultures. One of the main areas of focus in the new curriculum is “traditional and contemporary Aboriginal worldviews and cross-cultural perspectives as communicated through the visual arts.”

Ms. Donna Clark

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