

Mae Wright

Beading and Quill artistry - Hessel, MI



Aanii (hello)! In English, I like to go by Mae and I am the artist behind Nagamokwe Creations. I am an Anishinaabe woman from the Waganakising Odawa nation, also known as the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa. I am bear clan and based in northern Michigan.

Beading is medicine. In beadwork I find peace and a way to honor my Indigeneity. My skills were given to me by my family, elders, and community. They are the ones who taught me

different beading techniques, how to harvest birch bark sustainably, and how to honor the porcupine through their quills. Exercising my knowledge in traditional skills always feels like a little act of protest. Fighting back against generations of colonization and assimilation efforts with every bead that I stitch.

Anishinaabe art is full of life and story all coming together to reflect the world around us. For my artwork I find inspiration in cultural stories and the beauty of the land that is Anishinaabe territory. And the relatives, both plant and animal, that call this place home often find their way into my pieces. Sometimes that looks like a birch bark box covered in braids of sweetgrass and chickadees or a beaded canvas showing the life cycle of a local wildflower. Sometimes it turns into a pair of earrings dripping in the colors of a vibrant sunset over the Straits of Mackinac.

In any case, when I am bringing a new piece to life what I am doing is saying thank you. Thank you to all the generations before me who fought for me to be here. Thank you to the people in my community who work to preserve and protect our culture. And thank you to anyone who has given one of my pieces a new home. Miigwech (thank you).

If you would like more information on Mae Wright, you may contact her by e-mail at nagamokwecreations@gmail.com or by phone at 906.361.1990.



Beaded Canvas



Birch Bark and Beaded Box



Wolf and Fox Beaded Earrings