

Dana Claxton Hunkpapa Lakota (Sioux) born in
Yorkton, Canada; lives in Vancouver, Canada

Works:

Headdress – Connie, 2018, LED fire-box with
transmounted lightjet duratrans

Headdress – Dee, 2018, LED fire-box with
transmounted lightjet duratrans

Headdress – Jeneen, 2018; , LED fire-box with
transmounted lightjet duratrans

Shadae, 2019, LED fire-box with transmounted
lightjet duratrans

Headdress – Self Portrait, 2019, LED fire-box
with transmounted lightjet duratrans

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Dana Claxton, *Headdress – Jeneen*,
2018. LED fire-box with transmounted
lightjet duratrans. Image courtesy of
the artist."

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Keywords and Connections

installation, found materials, annotation, home,
domestic space, family histories, memory

Project description:

Dana Claxton's LED fire-boxes are a testament to the beauty and resilience of Indigenous women. Featured in portraits wearing their cultural belongings, sitters' faces are layered with beaded necklaces, embroidered bags, and other items, implying an identity formed of kinship, relations, and exchange.

Location:

259 Lake Shore Boulevard East

Tool: Belonging(s)

Are there any special belongings or reminders of ancestors that you or your community hold dear? What forms do these reminders take? What stories do they carry with them? Carefully gather some of the special belongings you have access to and arrange them around you or on you to create a composition. Take a selfie or ask someone to make a portrait of you surrounded by these belongings. What story does this image tell about you? Give the image a title.

Questions and Conversation Starters

What do you know about your ancestors?

In what forms do family and community histories get passed down—photographs, letters, keepsakes?

What happens when we do not have a physical object to remind us of our roots? Can we remember through song, dance, or storytelling?

Why do you think Dana Claxton calls the frames around her photographs “fire-boxes”?
