

Shaun Peterson

Wolf Daughter

Artist's Statement

This print is a depiction of Wolf Daughter. She is one of the earliest characters in a story that I had heard of regarding transformation. In my artistic development I found myself more and more drawn to these stories of Wolf. Her story in particular tells of how her and her mother were walking along the Puyallup River while coming across a young man. When Wolf Daughter saw him she instantly fell in love. Tragically, she knew that remaining in wolf form she could not marry him. The mother on the other hand saw him as a meal and had to be talked out of consuming him then and there. Wolf Daughter along with her mother brought him back to their home and snuck away after night fall. She went to the base of Mount Rainier (Takopid) where she sought out the help of the Elk who served as a shaman to the people. She explained how she longed to be human to marry the young man she so fell in love with. Elk could see she was indeed in love and told her to go to the river's edge where she will find a buckskin dress hanging over the river. She would then have to jump into it before touching the water.

Overjoyed with this direction she went to carry out this plan. She found the dress and leaped into it before touching the water. It was at this moment that she shed her wolf skin and emerged from the water as human for the first time. She gazed into the water to see a reflection of a beautiful young woman. Her wish to transform had come true. Now for the first time she ran on two feet back to her home. When she arrived the young man had come to and found himself surrounded by wolves. He reached for his war club only to be caught by the stunning beauty of this young woman that cast a shadow before him. She waved him out of the den and explained that the wolves were her family, they returned to his village and eventually married as she had wanted. She told the people there where she came from and asked the chief to call off any harm that came to her people and he agreed. From this we respect the teachings of the Wolf and integrate that structure into our cultural practice of leadership and order.

I have had this design ready for this naming for sometime and wanted it to be shared with this story. So many depictions of the art we do has to do with the

transformation itself. In this piece in particular I wanted to look at Wolf Daughter as she was in another point in her life perhaps as a younger adolescent completely unaware of the impact she would have on the world. I imagine there are many young people among us today who have this same spirit in them. I am happy today to share my work with you all as this is where the art itself comes from and this is what it is for, our people, our community.

Certificate of Authenticity

This print is a limited edition original serigraph. Shaun cut a rubylith stencil for the black color of *Wolf Daughter*. This print is one of an edition of 70 hand printed on Rives BFK Gray paper. In addition, 3 printers proofs and 7 artists proofs were printed on Rives BFK Gray, for a total of 10 proofs. The paper size of the Rives is 21.5 inches wide and 15 inches tall. The image size is 19 inches wide by 13.5 inches tall.

This edition was printed by Paul Nicholson of Bellevue, WA in 2005 with the assistance of the artist, Shaun Peterson.

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