Shaun Peterson Mother & Child

Artist's Statement

Mother and Child is part of a series of prints that explore the relationship between the first peoples of the Pacific Northwest coast and the salmon. As a person of Puyallup and Tulalip descent, I often hear us referred to as the "Salmon People." Not only is it a main staple in our diet, it serves a significant role in our cultural practices and teachings as well. It is the remarkable sense of "survival" that has us identify with them. Just as the salmon have endured many struggles so have our Native people. And just as their numbers have fallen, so have our Native peoples. In this print I have characterized a Mother and daughter in the form of salmon in a red circle. The defining trait of the female is marked by the negative oval space in the lower portion of the mouth opening. The mother faces the daughter as if to see what struggles lay ahead of her and there will be much to overcome. This bears true for many of our native women today as well. There are many single mothers who look to their daughters who will have to overcome many obstacles in life. It is this importance of cultural sensitivity and support that is needed for the next generation to become strong. So as the growing concern for the dwindling numbers of salmon rises, so should our concern for the well being of our future generations and what will be expected of them and their children.

Certificate of Authenticity

This print is a limited edition original serigraph. Shaun cut a rubylith stencil for the red color. The ink is then hand-printed onto archival paper. The paper size is 14.5 inches wide and 15.5 inches tall. The image size is 12 inches in diameter.

This print is one of an edition of 75 made on Arches Cover Black paper. 5 artists proofs and 3 printers proofs were also printed.

This edition was printed by Paul Nicholson of Bellevue, WA in 2004 with the assistance of the artist, Shaun Peterson.

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