

Debra Sparrow

4110 Mali Avenue,
Vancouver, B.C.
V6N 4C6
(604) 261-5156 (home)

Education and Training

- 1986 **Part of revival of Coast Salish weaving at Musqueam.**
Member of Musqueam Weaving Group
Musqueam, B.C.
- 1986-1999 **Researched and studied Coast Salish weavings in Canadian and American museum collections.**
Visited museums with other weavers, focused attention on older intricately designed blankets

Public Collections

Solo Commissions

- 2007 **UBC Faculty of Education,**
Commissioned for two 5' x 4' weaving for 75th Anniversary Faculty of Education
Vancouver, BC.
- 2007 **Musqueam Indian Band**
Commissioned 5' x 4' weaving for Language & Culture Committee
Vancouver, BC.
- 2007 **Vancouver Opera**
Commissioned 5' x 5' weaving
Vancouver, BC.
- 2006 **Thunderbird Logo – University of British Columbia** *A member of design team creating this logo for the University*
- 1996 **Vancouver, B.C. Vancouver International Airport Authority**
2 - 5' x 18' Salish weavings on permanent display at the International Arrivals Area
Vancouver, BC
- 1997 **Green College, University of British Columbia**
Coast Salish Dance Blanket Vancouver, B.C.
- Burke Museum University of Washington, Seattle**
Commissioned 5' x 10' weaving for Textiles of Northwest coast exhibit – currently on display Feb 2006- fall 2006. co-created with Robyn Sparrow
Seattle, Washington.
- 2003

Collaborations with Robyn Sparrow

1999

Heard Museum, Phoenix Arizona

Commissioned weaving now in permanent collection of Heard Museum. Another large scale weaving co created with Robyn Sparrow.

Phoenix, Arizona.

UBC Museum of Anthropology

1999 newly commissioned 5' x 10' weaving on permanent display in MOA galleries. Another large scale weaving co created with Robyn Sparrow.

Vancouver, B.C.

1988

UBC Museum of Anthropology

1995

One weaving created solo and one co-created with Robyn Sparrow

Vancouver, B.C.

1987

Canadian Museum of Civilization

Large Coast Salish Ceremonial Blanket from mountain goat wool

Hull, Quebec

1991

Royal British Columbia Museum

Ceremonial naming blanket and a Coast Salish designed woven wedding dress

Victoria, B.C.

**Solo Commissions
1986-2007**

Private Commissions

2007

Private Collector through Vancouver Opera –

5' x 4' wool Salish blanket.

2004

Private commission – wall sized weaving

Bruege, Belgium

2004

Private commission, Professor Best, University of Berkley

Berkley, California.

2003

Weaving commission small hanging, UBC Musuem of Anthropology Gift Shop

Vancouver, B.C.

2003

Legging regalia commissioned by Wendy John, Musqueam

Vancouver, B.C.

2003

Tradition leggings for regalia for private collector in NY City.

New York, NY.

Collaborations with Robyn Sparrow

2002	<i>Chief's Blanket commissioned by Nanaimo Indian Band for gift for Chief.</i> Nanaimo, B.C.
2002	<i>Weaving – small child's robe commissioned by Black Tusk Gallery,</i> Whistler BC
2001	<i>Weaving commissioned by private collector, Arizona. Donated to the Heard Museum Phoenix</i> <i>Arizona.</i>
2000	<i>Weaving commissioned by Aboriginal Achievement Foundation - for the 2000 Aboriginal</i> <i>Achievement Awards</i> Vancouver, B.C.
1998	<i>Weaving purchased by Summit and gifted to Grand Chief Phil Fountaine</i> Vancouver, B.C.
1996	Canada Trust <i>Salish Weaving commissioned as part of 1996 Dragon Boat Festival</i> Vancouver, B.C.
1991	Chief Miles Richardson <i>Salish Ceremonial Blanket commissioned by Musqueam Chief Wendy Grant for Chief</i> <i>Richardson</i> Haida Gwaii, B.C.
1991	Paramount Studios <i>Large Salish Weaving</i> Los Angeles, B.C.
1988	Disney Studios <i>Replica Chilkat style tunic and leggings done in Salish weaving technique - for movie White</i> <i>Fang II</i> Los Angeles, CA
Selected Group Exhibitions	
2005	Alcheringa Tribal Arts Gallery – exhibition <i>Weaving by Debra Sparrow part of group exhibition A profile of Robyn and Debra Sparrow in</i> <i>conjunction with the display of one of their weavings from MOA collection</i> Vancouver, B.C.
2005-6	Stonington Art Gallery <i>Weaving by Debra Sparrow part of group Coast Salish exhibition in this Seattle gallery.</i> Seattle, Washington.
2004-5	From Totems to Turquoise: Native American Jewelry Arts of the Northwest and Southwest <i>Exhibited a child's silver bracelet in the style of old goat horn bracelet. Bracelet from private</i> <i>collection at exhibit in American Museum of Natural History.</i> New York, NY

- 2005 **Musqueam Weavers: UBC Museum of Anthropology.**
A profile of Robyn and Debra Sparrow in conjunction with the display of one of their weavings from MOA collection
Vancouver, B.C.
- 1990 **Exhibit A – Museum of Anthropology celebrating 50 years.**
Exhibited weaving from MOA collection – co-created by Robyn and Debra Sparrow
Vancouver, B.C.
- 1996-1997 **topographies: aspects of recent B.C. art**
Exhibited weaving entitled “In Fear and Faith”
Vancouver, B.C.
- 1995 **First Nations Arts Display**
Exhibition and Demonstration of Salish weaving at Park Royal Centre West Vancouver, B.C.
- 1994 **Crossing the Boundaries**
Three woman show of weaving and ceramics
Deep Cove, B.C.
- 1992 **Contemporary Traditions - Four First Nations Women Artists**
Art Gallery of Greater Victoria
Victoria, B.C.
- 1989 **Two Woman Weave - Robyn and Debra Sparrow**
University Women’s Club
Vancouver, B.C.
- 1986 **Folklife Pavilion, Expo ‘86 World’s Fair**
Exhibited and demonstrated Musqueam weaving for duration of Fair
Vancouver, B.C.
- 1986 **Hands of Our Ancestors: The Revival of Salish Weaving at Musqueam**
Exhibit at UBC Museum of Anthropology - member of the development team
Vancouver, B.C.
- 1984-85
1988-89 **Native Arts and Crafts Society Exhibition**
Exhibited large and small scale Salish weavings
Vancouver, B.C.

Lectures, Workshops & Symposium Presentations

- 1997-2008 **Musqueam Museum School**
Co-developer and teacher in this education programme in partnership with the UBC Museum of Anthropology and the Musqueam Indian Band
Vancouver, B.C.
- 1999 **Gathering of Threads: The Pleasure of Textiles**
Lecture and slide presentation at the Roundhouse Community Centre
Vancouver, B.C.
- 1999 **BC Festival of the Arts**
Lecture and slide presentation "Hands of Our Ancestors"
Victoria, B.C.

- 1999 **Capilano College Textile programme:**
Lecture and slide presentation
North Vancouver, B.C.
- 1999 **Canadian Museum of Civilization : Salish weaving training**
Working with curator to train programme staff on Salish weaving
Hull, Quebec
- 1998 **Faculty of Education at UBC – textile conference**
Presentation about history and culture of Salish weaving revival at Musqueam
Vancouver, B.C.
- 1998 **Fine Arts Department – UBC**
Lecture: Salish weaving revival and the problematics of being called an artist.
Vancouver, B.C.
- 1998 **First Nations Studies 12 Conference, UBC Museum of Anthropology**
“A Journey” – presentation about collaborating with museums and developing education programmes
Vancouver, B.C.
- 1997 **The Sto:lo - People of the River** An interdisciplinary conference on the Sto:lo
Presentation about collaborating with museums and developing education programmes
Chilliwack. B.C.
- 1996-1997 **Guest Speaker, UBC Fine Arts Department**
Talk to student studying Canadian Art
Vancouver, CA
- 1994 ***Multiplicities, First Nations curators, cultural critics, artists speak***
a panel discussion at UBC Museum of Anthropology
Vancouver, B.C.
- 1994 **Philosophy of Weaving through the Hands of our Ancestors**
workshop on Salish weaving for Tsawassen Cultural Awareness Programme
Tsawassen, B.C.
- 1993 **International Textile Network Conference** (paper presented)
Presentation on the evolution of Salish weaving at Musqueam
Vancouver, B.C.
- 1993 **Native Arts Studies Association of Canada**
conference presentation on working with museums and archaeology exhibits
Victoria, B.C. .
- 1991 **Artist Talk**
American Museum of Natural History
New York, NY
- 1989 **Native Art Studies Association of America**
conference presentation
Vancouver, B.C.

1988 ***The Spirit Sings Exhibit***
guest lecturer and demonstrate Coast Salish weaving with sister Wendy Grant
Calgary, Alta.

Publications

- 2003 **“Weaving Worlds Together”** by Debra Sparrow and Jill Baird, published *Cultural Diversity and Indigenous peoples, Oral, Written, expressions and new technologies*. UNESCO, 2003.
- 2000 **“Know who you are, Know how where you come from”** by Debra Sparrow
in *The Hurricane in the Basement – Millenimum stories for the City of Vancouver, 2000*.
- 1998 **“A Journey”** by Debra Sparrow
in *Material Matters: The art and culture of contemporary textiles*. Eds Ruth Scheuing & Ingrid Bachmann, YYZ Books: Toronto.
- 1996 **“Out of the Silence”** by Debra Sparrow
European Textile Network December 1994, pp 43-45
- 1995-1997 **Debra Sparrow: Weaving Two Worlds Together**
School programme at the UBC Museum of Anthropology
Vancouver, B.C.

Review Publications

- 2002 **BBC interview with**
interview about tradition of aSalish weaving
London, England
- 1999 **CBC interview with Rick Clough – Morning Show**
interview about newly installed large blanket at MOA
Vancouver, B.C.
- 1997 **Weaving Worlds and Colliding Traditions: Collaborating with Musqueam weaver and educator Debra Sparrow.** By Jill Rachel Baird, unpublished MA Thesis, University of British Columbia
Vancouver, B.C.
- 1996 **topographies: aspects of recent B.C. art**
Vancouver Art Gallery/ Douglas & McIntyre
Musqueam, B.C.
- 1994 **Weaving Brought Meaning to Life**
Royal City Recorder/Now August 24, 1994
New Westminster, B.C.

- 1990 **Hands of Ancestors Guide New Generation** by Mary Ann Smythe
Artscraft: National Indian Arts and Crafts Corporation. Vol 2(3) Fall, 1990 pp 23-27.
Ottawa, Ont.
- 1990 **A gift from past in weaving** by Lyn Cockburn
The Province Sunday Sept. 2, 1990 p. 84
Vancouver, B.C.
- 1990 **Sisters find balance through weaving** by Alison Appelbe
The Vancouver Courier Sunday April 1, 1990 p 12
Vancouver, B.C.
- 1986 **Musqueam Weavers: History and Current Practices**, by Wendy Grant
Vancouver School Board, Lorna Williams ed.
Vancouver, B.C.
- 1986 **Hands of Our Ancestors: The Revival of Salish Weaving at Musqueam.** by Elizabeth Lominska Johnson & Kathryn Bernick.
Museum Note 16, UBC Museum of Anthropology
Vancouver, B.C.

Films and Video Profiles

- 2003
Summer **Creative Native – APTN Siwash Rock**
Profiled as a Salish weaver and artists
Vancouver, BC. National airing
- 2003
Fall **ART Zone, – APTN**
Kid's art show
Vancouver, BC. National airing
- 1998 **Siwash Rock, made for TV movie**
Featured weavings by Robyn and Debra Sparrow
Vancouver, BC.
- 1997 **topographies: aspects of recent B.C. art - video documentary**
Produced by Rogers Cable Vision for Vancouver Art Gallery
Vancouver, BC. - aired continuously during exhibition
- 1997 **Aboriginal Voices - profile on Robyn and Debra Sparrow**
Local TV programme focusing on Aboriginal achievements
Ottawa, Ontario.
- 1995 **Her Story - a documentary of women in the arts**
The Creators - part of a Canadian TV series profiling women
Vancouver, B.C. - aired nationally

References Available Upon Request