

# Theetrya' ts'à' gwiye'h'at choo / Copper and the Queen by Melissa Frost

I call this piece: **Theetrya' ts'à' gwiye'h'at choo / Copper and the Queen**

This is a multimedia piece consisting of particle board, steel, copper, porcupine quills, pennies, white heart trade beads, abalone, acrylic paint, shell buttons.

It symbolizes our relationship with the Crown, how we value copper and measure wealth.

Mahsi Cho to my good friend and mentor, Marie Wustner for pushing me past my comfort zone and creating space for me.

## **Theetrya' ts'à' gwiye'h'at choo / Copper and the Queen:**

Copper

Value

Queens

And valor

Shields of wealth

Distribution of health

Our lives were balanced

Until you brought Hell

Cloaked in black and white

Stories they tell

Of evil sights

And devil deeds

Pray our sins away

Tickets to "heaven" on layaway

To be paid off through assimilation

Self mutilation

and spiritual assassination

Our children pick up

The broken pieces that have been

chipped away by shame

The youth create mosaics

Neon flame

Calling in spirits and

Healing rain

Nurturing seeds

On ancestral terrain

Roots stretch past pain

Our connection

Will

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Never

Be

Broken

Break

Copper to show our dissatisfaction

Wear disgust like its fashion

Laws of the land shattered

The laws that really matter

It's been spoken

By Matriarchs invoking

Leii Nahshii, Geh'an Vidzaih eh'ok, T'o Nagah'ok/ Our dreams, our spirit, our existence

Nagoohiindaak, Melissa Frost, is a descendent of Shirlee Frost, her mother Alice Frost and her mother Joanne Njootli. She comes from the Wolf clan/Ch'ichyaa from the Vuntut Gwich'in First Nation of Old Crow, Yukon. Melissa is an aunty and a cousin who works for mother earth and our future generations. She has forged a career out of her passion for the arts and community work with youth. Melissa tries to channel traditional teachings and positive, hopeful messages when writing or performing.