I was intrigued by the University of Maine’s Wabanaki material collection of Special Collections for the Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History award. As a descendant of the Penobscot tribe I wanted to choose something from Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections that focused on Wabanaki culture.

I was inspired by this oral history (NA4234) because both Jennifer Neptune, a Penobscot beader and ash basket weaver, and Simin Khosravani, a Kashkooli weaver, talked about the problems of corporations using patterns and designs that are within their culture, selling them and claiming that they are homemade. Also both women talk about how they can’t patent a design but when business companies copy their designs and sell them it undercuts them and makes it more difficult as an artist. Their conversation sparked my interest because artists don't often talk about the troubles that they face and hearing about how two artists from different cultures experience the same issues I found to be captivating. I wanted to design a piece of art that could draw attention to and start a dialogue about the obstacles that these two women face.

When coming up with my piece I wanted to show both artists patterns in a different context but still keep elements of the original design. This is why I used a dot pattern and drew circles for the Penobscot double curve design and drew lines for the Kashkooli design to emulate the materials both artists use within their culture and artwork.

Through showing the artwork I made, the images I drew upon for the design and the audio, I hope that people will consider how we appropriate another person’s culture and what steps we can take to change that, as well as the effects that appropriation has on others.