



Juanita Growing Thunder Fogarty (Sisituwaŋ/Wahpetuwaŋ/Hohe, born 1969) and Camryn Growing Thunder (Sisituwan/Wahpetuwan/Hohe/Kiowa/Comanche, born 2002), *Walking This Good Way of Life Together*, 2022, smoked moose hide, rawhide, otter pelt, wool, porcupine quills, antique size-15 beads, French-cut beads, brass beads, brass buttons, brass cones, bells, thimbles, silk ribbon, ermine skin, horse hair, brass sequins, braid binding, and pigment, 60 in. (height), Museum purchase with funds from the Durham Center for Western Studies Art Endowment Fund, 2022.11

Juanita Growing Thunder Fogarty and Camryn Growing Thunder, *Walking This Good Way of Life Together*

Walking This Good Way of Life Together is an ornamental horse collar, or martingale, that pushes the boundaries of traditional Northern Plains art. Created by members of the Growing Thunder Collective, the work won Best of Class in the competitive Beadwork and Quillwork category at the 100th Annual Santa Fe Indian Market. During the award ceremony, artist Juanita Growing Thunder Fogarty (Sisituwaŋ/Wahpetuwaŋ/Hohe, born 1969) shared, "when I was working on this, I was praying for our future generations to find good partnerships in life and to walk this good way in life together." To ensure the continuation of cultural traditions, the artist works across generations and completed *Walking This Good Way of Life Together* with the assistance of her daughter, Camryn Growing Thunder (Sisituwan/Wahpetuwan/Hohe/Kiowa/Comanche, born 2002).

The complex layering and interplay of textures and colors exemplify the artists' extensive knowledge of natural and trade materials used by Native women on the Northern Plains for centuries. Historically, animal furs, bells, silks, and wools were luxury items reserved for regalia and special-occasion horse gear. Since their introduction to the Great Plains in the eighteenth century, horses have been honored with quilled and beaded masks, martingales, pad saddles, cruppers, hoof ornaments, and blankets. Bold in design and festooned with long hide fringe and silk streamers, *Walking This Good Way of Life Together* is made for motion. Brass and glass beads would sparkle in the sunlight, and bells and tin cones would jingle with the horse's trot.

Growing Thunder's designs develop through dreams and with the guidance of her ancestors. The pouch's central motif represents the purple clustered blooms of *wahpé waštémna* (sweet leaf), also known as wild bergamot. Found in the Great Plains, the medicinal plant has antimicrobial properties and is used to treat topical and respiratory infections. A sachet of this sweet and minty aromatic plant included inside the pouch is meant to perfume and protect the horse.