

## Exploring a Unique Haida Basket

When I go to museums, I like to do research. And sometimes, I will find baskets or hats that were made by my great, great grandparents, Isabella and Charles Edenshaw. And when I find them, I like to study them and see what designs that they've painted on it, or designs that they might have used or even the shape of the object that they made.

Like this basket we have here. It's oval shaped and it's painted on the outside, but also the inside. And my great, great grandfather Charles Edenshaw, he painted this basket. And it was purchased from a collector. And he made note of Isabella weaving the basket, but also Charles painting it. And it's kind of significant for weavers, because usually they weren't noted when the pieces were collected.

She would weave hats and baskets and mats and all types of things and he would paint designs on them. So they had a good partnership with creating pieces.

On the basket, we see, kind of a tail shape and some ovoids. And you look along here, there's the beaver.

Around the basket and on the inside, there's a salmon.

A lot of baskets are circular, so they have the central start. This one is oval shaped, so it has two starts. So if you look in at it, after viewing it for a while, you'll see how it's begun. And then the twining comes and it produces an oval shape. And then you weave up the basket, in comparison to this lidded basket that is circular.

It's a technique that you would have to learn over time. Like it's an advanced style of weaving, because it's a bit trickier to have two... start, and then not be circular. So there's a trick to making it oval shaped.

I like to come and spend time looking at it. It's like visiting family, in a sense, even though it's from a couple hundred years ago. It's still there and it was made well. And you get to study it and see the things that they've been working on. And you can relate it to what you're working on. And how their work can inspire your work. And knowing that it's your family's. It's still like the teachings keep going.