

# Evelyn Vanderhoop Video 1

I think it's so important for people to know about the textiles and not that many people do, you know. We know about the carving, we know about the totem poles and the argillite, the things and the canoes. But not that many people talk about the Haida textiles. And I think in my research, there's been so much involvement with our culture, with the textiles, the Raven's tail, which is now coined Raven's tail, but it used to be called Northern geometric patterning.

Everybody had forgotten it. There was no aunties, there was no Nanaays. There was nobody who could remember someone weaving these robes. The chiefs would wear these robes and the robes throughout the whole Pacific area, you know, all across the Pacific ring, the cultures, their textiles were very important. That was how you expressed your status, how you fit in the community that you are from. How much wealth you have, where you come from can be told by textiles. And that's very much how the Northwest Coast people are. And so these robes, I believe, were the earliest style that had the transformation concept too, that if you put something on, you'll become something else, and that you will be able to communicate with another realm. That's really a big part of our ancestral memories is how we related to nature and how we felt we could maybe, I don't know, control nature, but work with nature in such a manner that we could survive and excel.