

## RISD Museum Announces *Diné Textiles: Nizhónígo Hadadít'eh* September 2, 2023 - September 29, 2024



Providence, RI (August 17, 2023)...The RISD Museum presents *Diné Textiles: Nizhónígo Hadadít'eh*, an exhibition that explores the ever changing and dynamic Diné (Navajo) apparel designs. From 19th-century mantas and wearable blankets to contemporary Diné fashion designs, the exhibition showcases 150 years of resilience and creativity. Hózhó, a Diné concept of balance, beauty, and harmony, is demonstrated throughout the exhibition of striking textile designs that feature symmetrical geometries, intricate use of light and dark color, and embody the legacy of matriarchal teaching.

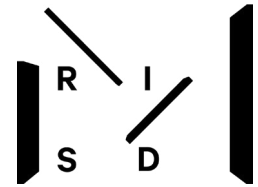
Diné apparel design is constantly evolving, often in response to historical events. Diné apparel transitioned from woven wool textiles to sewn commercial fabrics after the 1868 Treaty of Bosque Redondo, which subjected Diné to US federal government rule, forced assimilation, and American capitalism. As non-Natives began collecting Diné textiles, Diné weavers created fine art wall hangings that feature vibrant aniline dyes. Materials, references, and colors may change within Diné weaving, but the embodiment of Hózhó (balance, beauty, and harmony) remains the same.



“Diné textiles were and continue to be sources of design inspiration, as well as objects of cultural appropriation. Despite hardship, Diné resilience drives creativity forward. We honor and appreciate the generations of Diné weavers who, through hózhó, have designed beautiful garments for beautiful people.” –Sháńdíín Brown (Diné), Henry Luce Curatorial Fellow for Native American Art

Many of the names of the weavers in this exhibition are not in the museum’s records. Despite their identities being lost to us today, these Diné women were known in their communities. Contemporary Native American artists featured include Melissa Cody (Diné), Korina Emmerich (Puyallup), TahNibaa Naataanii (Diné), Cara Romero (Chemehuevi), Gilmore Scott (Diné), and Darby Raymond-Overstreet (Diné) - the designer of the exhibition logo.

# RISD MUSEUM



## About the RISD Museum

Established in 1877 as part of a vibrant creative community, the RISD Museum stewards works of art representing diverse cultures from ancient times to the present. We interpret our collection with the focus on the maker and we deeply engage with art and artists, presenting ideas and perspectives that can be inspiring and complex. We aspire to create an accessible and inclusive environment that builds meaningful relationships across all communities. For more information: 401-454-6500 or [risdmuseum.org](http://risdmuseum.org).

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## Images:

Diné weaver once known, *Diyogí n'teel | Chief-Style Blanket (Transitional Third Phase)*, ca. 1880–ca. 1900. Gift of Mrs. Murray S. Danforth. Courtesy of RISD Museum, Providence.

Diné weaver once known, *Beeldléí | Wearing Blanket*, ca.1870–ca. 1880. Gift of Mrs. Frances Carpenter. Courtesy of RISD Museum, Providence.

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