



Tlingit fur artist Christy Ruby heads home after a day's hunt off Prince of Wales Island. As an Indigenous Alaskan, Ruby is permitted by law to harvest sea otters, as long as they are only used for subsistence or for traditional handicrafts—fur clothing in her case. "I don't take it lightly when I take a life," Ruby says. "It's ancestral. It's in my blood."

PHOTOGRAPH BY KILIII YÜYAN



Ruby was a graphic artist before she decided to make her living hunting sea otters and seals, as allowed by federal law because of her Tlingit ancestry. She has won Indigenous art awards for the “unique apparel” she sells on her website—including vests, mittens, and hats.

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