

Teri Rofkar's 1964 Earthquake Robe

Shelly Law is an artist, Tlingit weaver, and Teri Rofkar's sister. Rough notes from Shelly's installation:

Robes can be status symbols, regalia, and essentially hold language and history of the Tlingit culture. The robes show stories, legends, and can commemorate events.

This robe has been danced. Teri always made sure robes were danced before being put into collections.

The 1964 earthquake took place on Good Friday or Holy Friday – March 27, 1964. The majority of the deaths occurred because of the resulting tsunamis.

Patterns:

Bear tracks – look like how the earth gets smashed under a bear's weight, and represent the way the earth was damaged in the earthquake.



3 crosses – represent that the earthquake took place on Holy Friday.



Fault line – the boxes around the line no longer match up perfectly. This is a different type of fault than the San Andreas. The design is meant to show a subduction zone in a megathrust earthquake, when one plate goes under another.



Highways and railroad tracks – line the edges of the robe and are disrupted at certain points.



Waves – located at the bottom of the robe. Usually a perfect vertical pattern, these waves are slanted to show the strength of the tsunami event. That day, the waves destroyed oil tank reserves and spread burning oil across towns, shown in red and yellow.

