

# LINDA SPILLUM

## ARTIST STATEMENT: DREAM CATCHERS



I began making DREAM CATCHERS many years ago as one of many teachers participating in middle school "Pioneer-Indian" reenactment days. We taught early skills to students. I enjoyed this particular skill so much, I never stopped!

DREAM CATCHERS were thought to have been made by early American Natives to hang freely near the head of a bed. The spider's web would catch the bad dreams and the good dreams would work their way through the center. The purpose of the feathers was to guide good dreams to the sleeper below.

Today, many dream catchers are placed where the heart desires, which may or may not be near a bed, but often is a resting place such as a garden.

I use Oregon native materials such as Willow, Wisteria, Grape, Madrona, Sagebrush, Currant, Juniper and Ponderosa Pine. The more twisted and gnarly the wood is the more personality it has. Artificial sinew is used for the webbing. Special embellishments such as beads and shells found on Oregon beaches are added. Found feathers are always sanitized before using.

One of my favorite materials to use for the spider bead is hematite, a mineral  $Fe_2O_3$  constituting an important iron ore. It seems particularly fitting since other parts are of the earth.

Because I feel indebted to my Native friends, 20% of the profits from the sales of these Dream Catchers go to help support St. Joseph's Indian School, Chamberlain, S.D. 57326 [www.stjo.org](http://www.stjo.org)