

Absolute Refusal (2023)

Danielle Lussier

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Reading the beads births a different kind of poetry;

layers of meaning gently peeled away from these Ancestors,

newly born.

Rooted

in modern opaque seed beads
chosen to evoke the Métis sash,

a silver-lined blue and bronze
five-petal flower
was
stitched
on a (fragile)
scrap of vintage
HBC point blanket,
age unknown;
but,
from what the artist
imagines to be
of the Fur Trade Era.

(gently, slowly)

(Once cherished,
perhaps, by an
Ancestor?)

negative space
in the petals
(where the blankie peeks through)
nods,
acknowledges,
honours
gaps
in intergenerational
knowledge transfer
(by no fault of our kin)

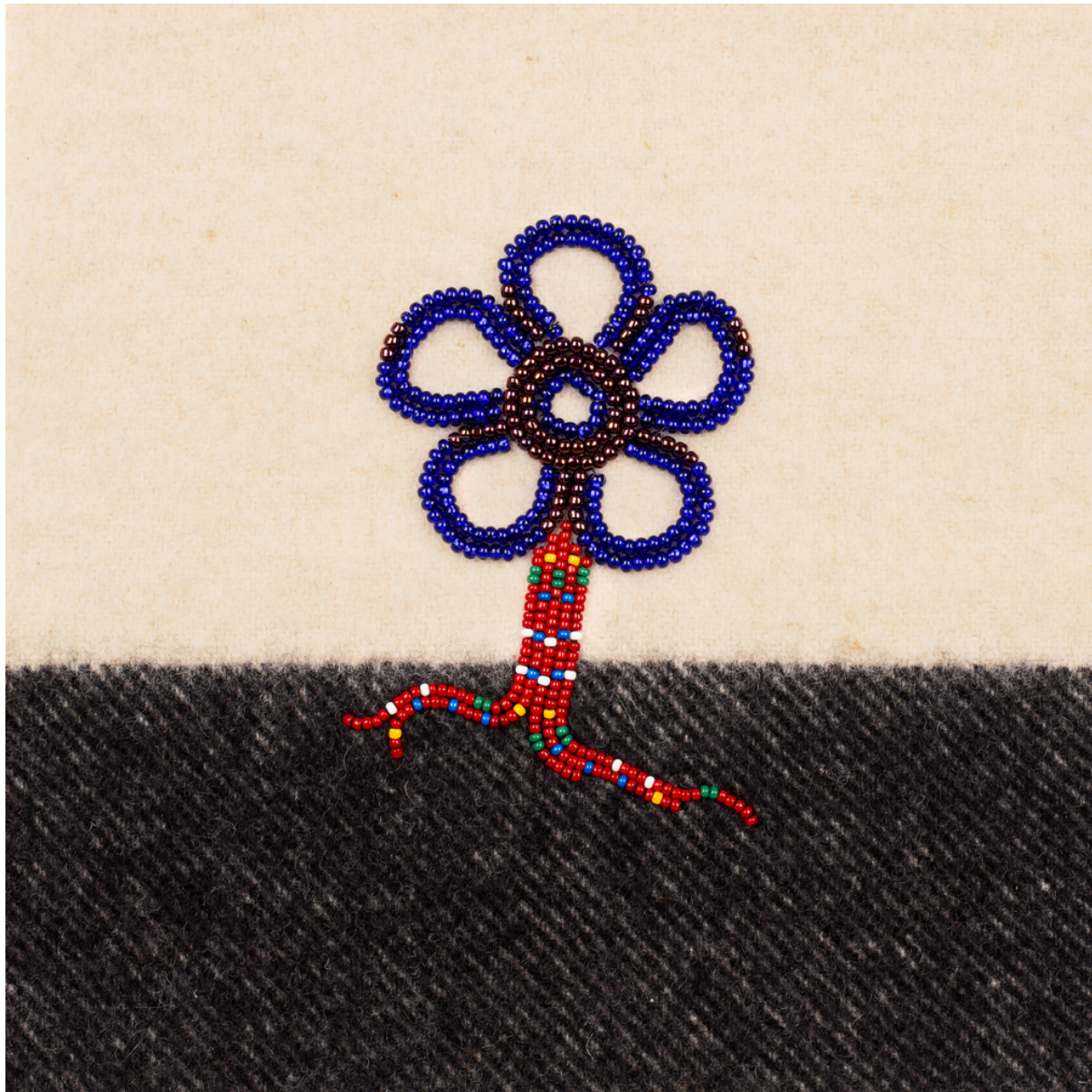
beaded deep into a
navy-blue stripe,

so faded that it reads
(almost) as black

speaks to the Reign of Terror

and our

Absolute Refusal.



as a People,

to be uprooted
(eliminated)

from our Homeland.

Biography

Danielle Lussier, Red River Métis, is mum to three young people growing up as members of the Métis diaspora. An award-winning administrator, professor, researcher, and change leader, she is a passionate advocate and community builder who believes there is room for love and humanity in ethical education.

She holds a Bachelor of Laws, a Bachelor of Civil Law of Quebec, a Master of Laws, and a PhD in Law. Dr. Lussier served as Indigenous Learner Advocate and Director of Community and Indigenous Relations at the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law from 2018–2022. She now serves as the inaugural Associate Vice-Principal, Indigenous Knowledges and Learning, at the Royal Military College of Canada, as a Fellow of the Institute of Intergovernmental Relations at Queen's University, and as a professor cross-appointed to Queen's Faculty of Law.
