

Blackfoot (Káínaa)/English edition

NAAHSA AISINAKI!

NAAHSA IS AN ARTIST!

iitsinikatooma ki iisinaam ma/
written and illustrated by

HALI HEAVY SHIELD

ahtsoanistoomia niiksii/translated by

NORMA JEAN RUSSELL

ki/and **FAYE HEAVY SHIELD**

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Naaahsa aisinaki.

Naaahsa aawaaniwa aaksstamikakohkottsistotsii'pa
sinaksiinii. Niitsitsiihtao'pi. "Kaanistsitsiihtaahpi ki
anniayi kitaakohtomatapoo."

Sstsikistsi aakaisinaakio'pa.
Sstsikistsi aakaookatakio'pa.
Sstsikistsi aakaiinikhio'pa.
Sstsikistsi Naaahsa aakaiitsitapiitsinikiwa.

Naaahsa is an artist.

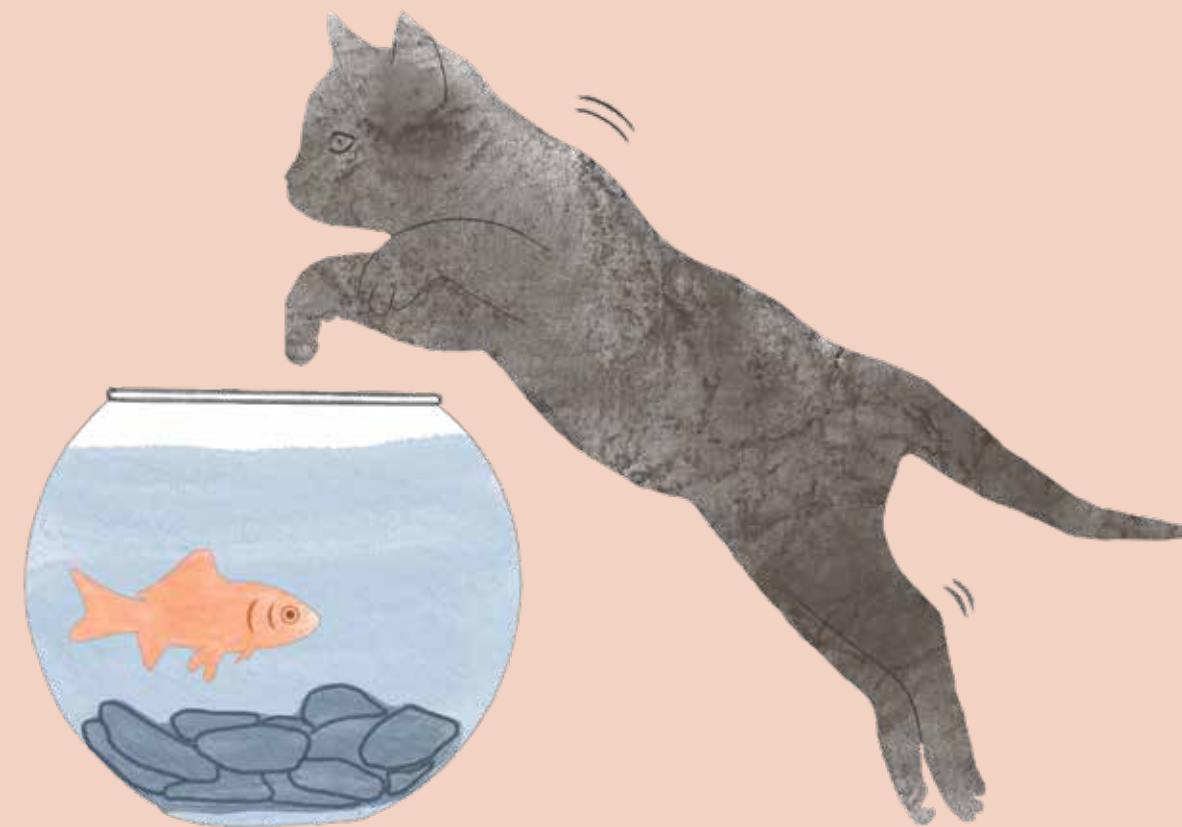
She says making art can happen anywhere at any time. "You
can always make something out of nothing. Just use your
imagination!"

Sometimes we draw.
Sometimes we bead.
Sometimes we sing.
Sometimes Naaahsa tells stories in Blackfoot.



Naapiwa taitsinikatoo'pistsi maanista'paisspi
nitsiikayaahssisstsiiwakatoo'piaawa.

My favorite stories are about Naapi, the Trickster.



Naapiwa aisskssaipahtsa'pssiwa. Ni'toyi nitohpoosiimiksi.

Naapi is always getting in and out of trouble just like my cats.

Naaahsa iikayaahssa'piksikka'yiwa.
Nitaakaooysspinnaana, ki
nitsitaisiiko'takihpinnaana
aamostsska miistsiistsska ki
aohkotokssskoistsi.

Naaahsa likes to go for long walks.
We pick berries and gather twigs
and rocks.

A'paiksikkayihpinnaaniki
nitsiikohtayaahssi'takihpinnaana.
Nitsiikohtaiksimatsi'taki lihtsipaitapiiyao'pa.

Going for walks inspires
us. And so, I give Creator
thanks.

Saissksimokoyi iitao'tssaisškiwa
Ninaistako.

The prairie grass stretches all the way to Chief Mountain.



Sstsikistsi nitaihkiitaahpinnaana.
Sstsikistsi nitaakokspanohkio'takihpinnaana.
Sstsikistsi ooma iihtaisinaakio'pa
nitaakohtaisinaakihpinnaana.
Sstsikistsi nitaakayiistsinitakihpinnaana
painokainammiksiyi atapiimiksi.

Sometimes we cook.
Sometimes we paint.
Sometimes we take pictures.
Sometimes we cut paper dolls.



Naaahsa nitaiiyikaahkiminnoka,
“Stamomanistayika’kimaat.”

Naaahsa encourages me,
“Stamomanistayika’kimaat.
Keep doing your best.”



Ni'toyi naanistsisstoyiimihpinnaana Naaahsa otao'toissksinima'tsaahsi.
Aikakaiitsi'poyi Naaahsa otsitsi'nakstssi'siwa.

Naaahsa went to a residential school when she was my age.
Blackfoot was the only language Naaahsa spoke as a child.

Aohtaisiimayaawa maahkssayaiitsi'poyssaawa.
Naaahsa aisokaisimiaanistsiyi niiksi oohsissiksi, "Kitsiikakomimmohpoaawa."

Iikohtaikkihkini'taki ookoowayi. Ki, inao'kitanistsiwa aiitohtssokimohsiwa
a'yaisinaakssi.

But it was against the rules to speak Blackfoot at residential school. So Naaahsa
whispered to her brothers and sisters in secret, "Kitsiikakomimmohpoaawa. I love you."

She was sad to be away from home. But making art made her feel better.





Naaahsa aakaniiwa,
“Aohkanaotsistapi’tsimiaawa matapiiksi,
aakitaissa’tsimiaawa sinaksiinii.”

“Kitaakohtohkottohtsissitapiyi Naapi
Oto’piima kaanaomia’nistsinattsiyi.”
“Aakaoyaawa kitaakohkottohtsissitapiyi.”
“Kitaakohkottohtawaawahkaahpi
kitsitsiniihpistsi.”
“Kitaakohkottsi’naka’paipahtsa’pssi.”

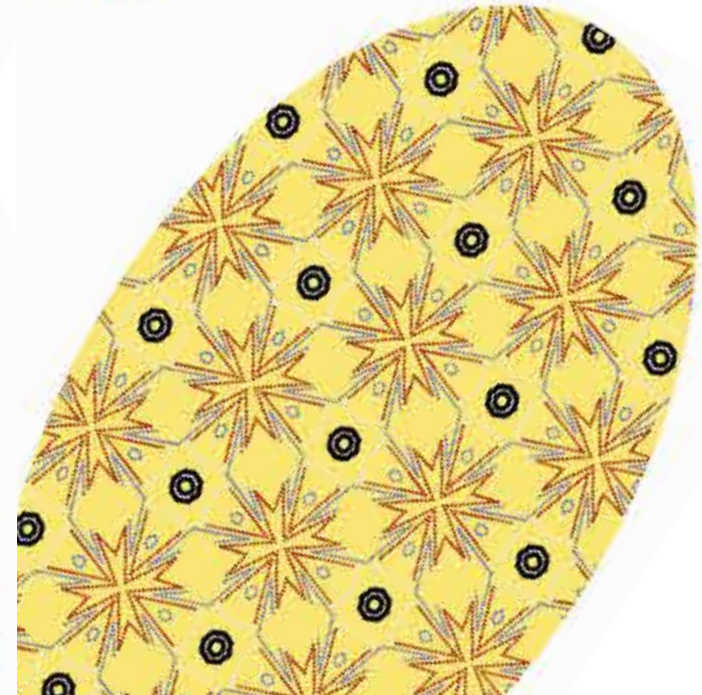
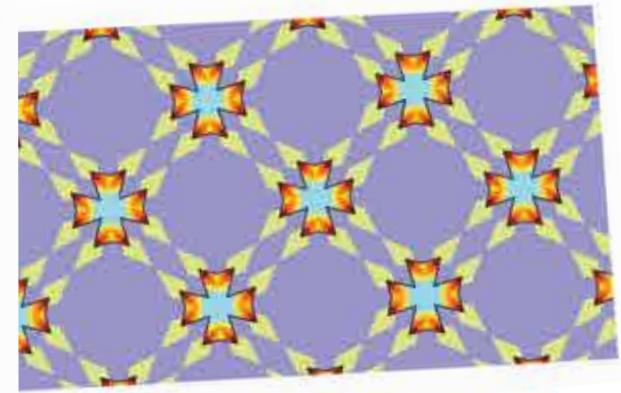
Naaahsa says, “Art is a language
everyone understands.”

“Use any color of the rainbow.”
“Choose different materials.”
“Play with shapes.”
“Make mistakes.”



Naaahsa aakaniiwa “Toksskaistsi
a’yaisinaakiyiniki nitaistamanistsimohsi
anni i’naksipokaayi. Nao’kitanistsiwa
iiksiiyikowa.”

“Sometimes making art makes me feel like
a kid,” Naaahsa says. “But it’s also hard
work.”



Naaahsa aakitsipi'kihtsiwa osinaakssiistsi amiima National Gallery ki nitaakohkottohpokoomawa. Nitaakitssapopiihpinnaana aipottaawa. Naaahsa aaniwa nitaakohkottsitssinaaki anni otsitaisinaakihpi.

Naaahsa has an art show at the National Gallery, and I get to go with her.

We ride on a plane and Naaahsa lets me doodle in her sketchbook.

Naaahsa aawaaniwa, "Aakohkottsikkamiksimstatoo'pa amo ayaakssinai'pi, aistamikaiksisststoot annii kitsitaohkitssinaakihpi ki annii koohtaisinaakihpi."

Naaahsa says, "You never know when an idea will come to you, so always be ready with your sketchbook and pencil!"





Anni nitsitssapopiihpinnaana aipottaayi,
nisootamanistsimohsi anni nitao'takssapopiihpi amiima
Kainaawa otsitaohkana'psspi. Nitaiitsikkiimohsi.

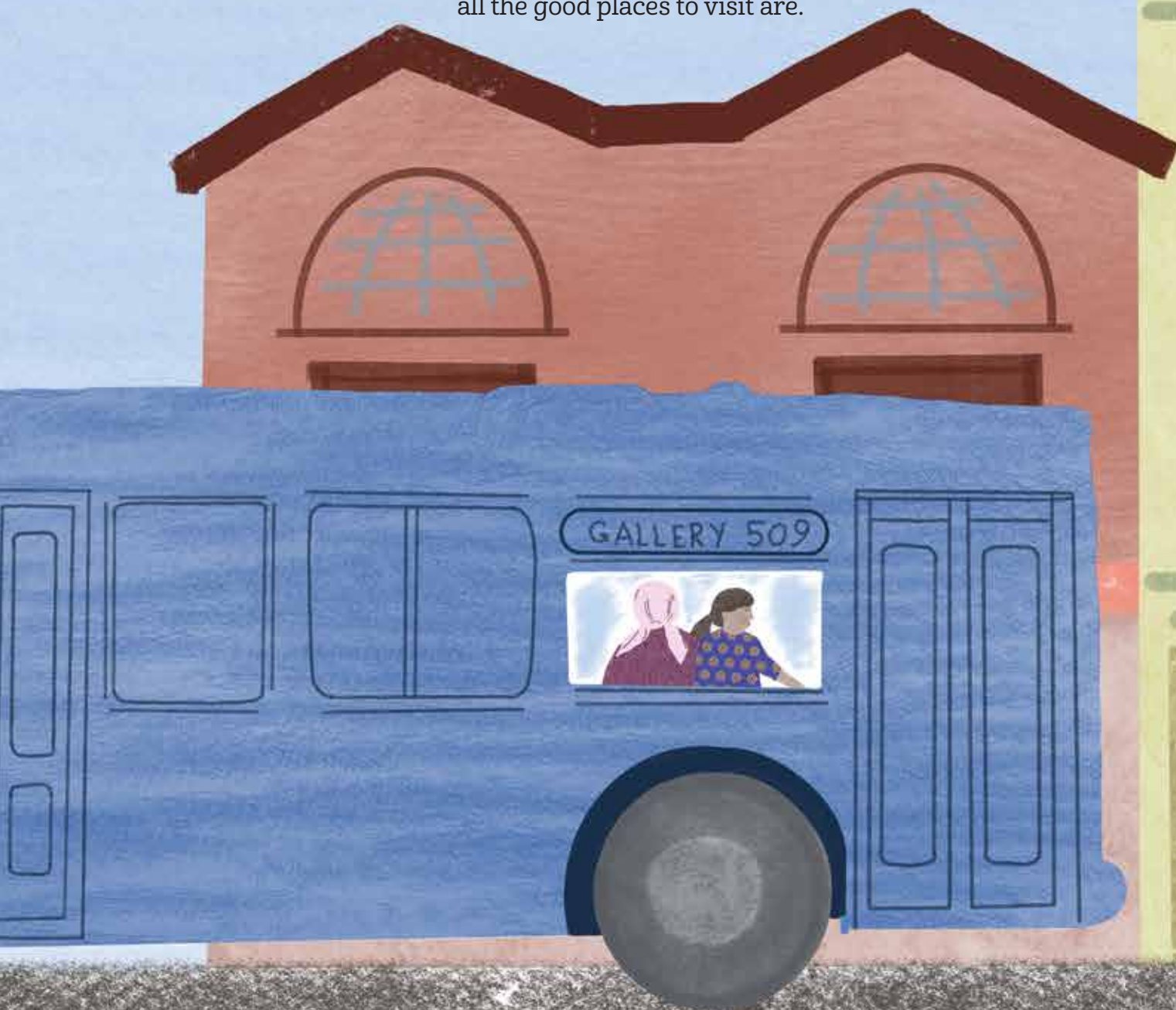
Naaahsa nitsitayinnoka no'tsisi naakssawattsiko'pohssini.
Naaahsa nitsitaohkokka aawakksiysi ki noohtookiistsi
iitaikawohpi'.
Naaahsa aopammohki ki nitsitaitapohkiisi ottsikisi.
Naaahsa nitsitao'topao'ka ami ksiistsiikomsstaani
ki nisootamanistsimmohsi anni ayinnimaa
nomohta'pawaawanihpi.

The airplane ride is like riding the Ferris wheel at the Kainai
Fair and Rodeo. It gives me butterflies.

Naaahsa squeezes my hand and I feel safe.
Naaahsa offers me bubble gum and my ears feel better.
Naaahsa hums a song and I rest my head on her shoulder.
Naaahsa gives me the window seat, and I pretend to be a hawk
flying in the clouds.

Nitai'to'toohssinnaana nisootamitapoohpinnaana amiima akahtoohpi
iitayo'kao'pi. Naaahsa issksinima aamosti kanaisoka'piisti
naahkitapoohpinnaanisti.

We stay at a fancy hotel, and Naaahsa knows where
all the good places to visit are.



Nitsitaisapopiihpinnaana a'paipihitakiiksi
matapiiksi. Nitsitaitapoohpinnaana ai'nssimaiksi
otsita'paihkahtakihpoaayi.
Nitsitaisapohpa'wanihpinnaana ikkstskioomita
ki nitsitaitapoohpinnaana aookatakiiksi
otsitaohpommaahpiaawa.
Nitsitaoksannaana sa'aiksi amiima o'kiaakssini.
Nitsitaakohtoohpinnaana miiyihka miiyihka, ki
nitsitssikopiihpinnaana amiiyi iitaissikopao'pi.

We take a cab to the market and eat pastries and drink hot chocolate.
We hop on the bus and stop at the bead store.
We count the ducks near the canal.
We walk and walk and walk, then rest at the park.



Iitsikayinni'pa mii Naaahsa iitohkanaonakioohtoo'pi otssinaakssiistsi ki ota'pistotakssistsi. Nitsitaakssapsskaohssatoo'pa mii aanatsinattsiwa nisoka'simi ki nitsitaakssammawa amayi a'pistotowawa ksowawakaasi saoohtsi iitstsiwa.

At the opening exhibit, I wear my prettiest dress and stare at the giant spider sculpture outside the gallery.

Nitao'taaattsimannaani kanaomia'nistsitapiiyiksi. Aamoksi matapiiksi aohkanaisstaayaawa maahko'taaattsiimahssaawa Naaahsa. Ki nimaatohtaikiihpa.

We meet a lot of interesting people. They mostly want to talk with Naaahsa, but I don't mind.

Aamoksi matapiiksi iitayissitapiiyaawa niita'psspiaapi'powahssini, "Amo, nitsiikstiiktsiip. Iikskasooksinakiiw."

Nitsiikohtaitsiihka'si. "Annao'ka Naaahsa, omahkaisinaakiwa," nomohtaiksimsstaa aako'ttsiyi niksimsstaani nitaakoohkattomahkaisinaaki ni'toyi Naaahsa!

People use big words like, "Fascinating! Beautiful! Remarkable! Extraordinary!"

It makes me feel proud. "That's Naaahsa, the artist," I think to myself. Someday I want to be an artist just like her!



Ai'ksista'piisiyi Naaahsa aaniwa
nitaakohkottsisamiipoopissi.
Nitsiisai'poyihpinnaana
maahko'tsiiphtakssaawa
naahksowatoo'pinnaana ki
Naaahsa nitaokstomooka
naahstamiistapomao'kaa.

Kanaitapiiksi ayaahssa'tsimiaawa
Naaahsa otssinaakssiistsi....

After the show, Naaahsa lets me stay up late.
We order pizza and she reads to me until I fall
asleep.

Everyone loves Naaahsa's art....





Ki nao'kitanistsiiwa nitsikakomi'tsii'pa nitawaatoto'toyssi.

But I love her hugs best.

Hali Heavy Shield ihtootsitapiiw Káínaa. Aitsinikoyiiw pookaiks; ihtatsinikiw ootsihtpokapaisiimahpi oksistsi Faye. oksistsi nohkatasinakiiinai. Hali iikiahssinaki, ki iikatiahsoksstakiiw ki Iikakomimiiw otpoosiimi, Poos.

Hali Heavy Shield is a member of the Blood Tribe of Southern Alberta. Her first book for children was inspired by the many adventures she's had with her mom, Faye, who is also an artist. Hali loves to draw, read, and snuggle her cat, Poos.

NAAHSA AAKANIIWA AOHKANAOTSISTAPI'TSIMIAAWA MATAPIIKSI, AAKITAISSA'TSIMIAAWA....

*Sstsikistsi aakaisinaakio'pa.
Sstsikistsi aakaookatakiop'a.
Sstsikistsi aakaiinihkiop'a.
Sstsikistsi Naaahsa aakaiitsitapiitsinikiwa.*

Ma iinnakakiikoan aitsinikatooma mii maahsi
manistsasiinakihp ki manistaikimmostihipia.

NAAHSA SAYS ART IS A LANGUAGE EVERYONE UNDERSTANDS....

Winner of the
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*Sometimes we draw.
Sometimes we bead.
Sometimes we sing.
Sometimes Naaahsa tells stories in Blackfoot.*

A young girl celebrates her grandmother's art
and the wonderful connection between them.

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