

# ***Growth Rings***, 2018

Jaymie Johnson

Akin to the growth rings of a tree or shell that record their changing environment, the concentric layers of this work are a record of the evolving community that calls Squamish home.

Created from salvaged climbing rope, ***Growth Rings*** is made up of hundreds of multi-strand braids woven by Squamish residents over the course of ten workshops. Three of these included guest storytellers and musicians, Tsawaysia Spukwus (Alice Guss, Squamish Nation), Lucie Barnett, and Eric Andersen.

This braided work weaves together the history of Squamish with its diverse community. The imagery of the Western Red Cedar speaks to the ecology of the place, the logging and forestry history and the Indigenous people's history in Squamish and their use of cedar as a braiding material. The contours of the cross-section also alludes to the inlet geography of Squamish.

The use of this salvaged material from the local climbing community and the transformation of it into a new woven material by the hands of the community are a way of integrating these groups into one intertwined whole. As a community-engaged project that repurposes waste material, the work directly honours and facilitates Squamish Savings' goals of building a healthy community, enriching and protecting our local ecosystems and celebrating the diversity of people and histories of Squamish.