



PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

The AYA collection's Yasmine sunglass frame features a bold eagle design and is available in crystal red, grey, black and a unique brown over blue.

# Wearable art

Vancouver eyewear company launches line featuring First Nations-inspired frames

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A Vancouver-based company has turned sunglasses into wearable art that is both stylish and smart.

Claudia Alan Inc.'s new AYA collection features frames etched with works created by B.C. First Nations artist Corrine Hunt.

For instance, the women's Althea sunglasses (\$35) feature oversized frames decorated with Hunt's eagle design.

And the men's Brody (\$35) features her wolf design on a wrap-style frame.

Carla D'Angelo, Claudia Alan Inc.'s founder and president, said she's happy with the results.

"(Hunt's) work really spoke to me and caught my eye," says D'Angelo, adding she is a "huge fan" of the Vancouver jewelry artist.

But there's more to these shades than simply looking good.

Buying a pair of these fancy squint-proofers helps to feed children in need: \$2 from every purchase gets donated to ONEXONE's First Nations school breakfast programs.

So yes, you can feel good about splurging on a few pairs — one for the car and one for your purse. They're also good gifts, practical and unique.

D'Angelo answers some questions about this hot new line, available at [claudiaalan.com](http://claudiaalan.com).

**Describe your new AYA line.**

All glasses in the AYA line showcase an original First Nations design that represents the beauty and wonder of the Pacific Northwest.

**What is the inspiration for working with artist Corrine Hunt?**

I have always loved First Nations artwork and Corrine Hunt's work really appealed to me. As soon as I saw her work, I knew I wanted to work with her. I find her art inspiring; I wanted to incorporate the beauty of her art with the stylish glasses that we produce.

**How has the AYA line been received since**



First Nations artist Corrine Hunt, left, and Carla D'Angelo of Claudia Alan eyewear worked to create the AYA collection, featuring images that reflect Hunt's West Coast heritage.

**launching a few weeks ago?**

The launch of the new line has been exceptional — better than we even hoped. The style of the line appeals to both men and women and all ages. ... We have received interest internationally from Japan, Germany and the U.K., and the First Nations community is thrilled.

**Tell us about the charitable aspect to AYA and why this is important.**

It took a long time to find a charity that really resonated with me, so I was excited to find ONEXONE, a non-profit foundation committed to supporting, preserving and improving the lives of children at home in Canada, the United States, and around the world.

At Claudia Alan, we believe in giving back to our communities. ... This program is helping (more than) 1,500 children get a nutritious breakfast.

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