

Eyewear company creates wearable art that helps kids

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A local 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 the wrap-style frame.

North Vancouver-based 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."

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

Buying a pair of these fancy squint-proofers helps feed children in need since \$2 from every purchase gets donated to ONEXONE's first nations nutritious 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 Five Questions about this hot new line.

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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



Carla D'Angelo (right) of Claudia Alan eyewear worked with first nations artist Corrine Hunt to create the AYA collection. The line's Yasmine model (top) features a bold eagle design and is available in crystal red, grey, black and a unique brown over blue.

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 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.

Where can we find it?

At claudiaalan.com and at various local vendors, including:

- Museum of Anthropology, University of B.C.
- Wickaninnish Gallery, Granville Island
- Readerwear, Vancouver
- Giftworks, North Vancouver

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 very 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.