

## **Juneau Arts & Humanities Council Statement Entry #9 Doragon**

The piece Doragon by artist Beth Bolander caused a considerable amount of controversy following the Saturday night show of Wearable Art 2018. Wearable Art has traditionally served as a platform for artists to express themselves in a variety of ways, and the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council has traditionally not prevented artists from moving forward with displaying controversial pieces.

The JAHC deeply regrets the pain that running this piece has caused and disavows all forms of cultural appropriation. In deference to experts more educated on these difficult topics, the artist, production team, and JAHC have made the decision to not run the piece in today's show.

The JAHC seeks to be a team of leaders in art, personal expression, and community development. Leading the way in conversations of diversity, equity, and inclusivity is a responsibility that we must own and embrace.

So as not to miss the opportunity for learning, the piece in question will be displayed in the lobby at the conclusion of the show. At the display, we encourage interested parties to provide their contact information to be invited to forthcoming dialogues and training opportunities on cultural appropriation and issues of equity in the arts. We look forward to embracing this learning moment and the community-wide discussion that will follow.

If you would like to participate in conversations about this topic, please write your name and email here:

Name

Email