



Ogimaa Oshawana wiiwkwaan (Chief Oshawana's Hat) (2026) Found vintage 19th century beaver-fur top hat, canvas, photo-transfer, acrylic paint, electronic components, glass beads, hide, rope. 91 x 35 x 40 cm. Collection of the ArFst.

Note this is a work-in-progress. *Edge-beading on the hat's rim to be added and ostrich plumes and accoutrements.*



Chief Oshawana (also known as John Naudee or Nahdee, c. 1765– 1860s) was a respected Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) Ogimaa from Bkejwanong (Walpole Island, Ontario) and a trusted war leader who stood alongside the Shawnee leader Tecumseh in the defence of Indigenous homelands during the War of 1812. He fought in many pivotal battles across the Great Lakes region, carrying the responsibilities of leadership and alliance. After Tecumseh's death, Oshawana became the caretaker of several of his personal belongings, including his pipe tomahawk and brass compass, ensuring that these sacred reminders of Indigenous resistance and nationhood would be carried forward for future generations.

