Leah Shenandoah: O’whahsa’ – Protection, Comfort, Healing
September 2 to November 1, 2013

Reception: Thursday, September 19, 2013, 4:30-6:00 pm
Longyear Museum, Alumni Hall, 2nd floor

Leah Shenandoah, an emerging artist of the Oneida Nation (Wolf Clan), explores the concept of the hood (O’whahsa’ in Oneida language) as a metaphor for protection, comfort, and healing. On a deeper level, the hood also symbolizes the dome of Skyworld, the origin of Haudenosaunee people and the place to which they will ultimately return. The hood is thus a space within which one might commune with all aspects of the universe and especially the ancestral inhabitants of Skyworld. The work included in this dramatic exhibition includes three-dimensional textile sculptures, wearable textile art and jewelry, and the artist’s own interpretations of feathered smudging tools, widely used as a Native American healing device.