

**Minneapolis Institute of Art**

# **In Our Hands**

**Native Photography, 1890 to Now**

# **Mia**

# In Our Hands: Native Photography, 1890 to Now

October 22, 2023 – January 14, 2024



Enter into the vivid worlds of Native photography, as framed by generations of First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and Native American photographers themselves. Presenting over 150 photographs of, by, and for Indigenous people, “In Our Hands” welcomes all to see through the lens held by Native photographers.

Organized by a council of primarily Native artists, scholars, and knowledge sharers, in partnership with Mia curators.

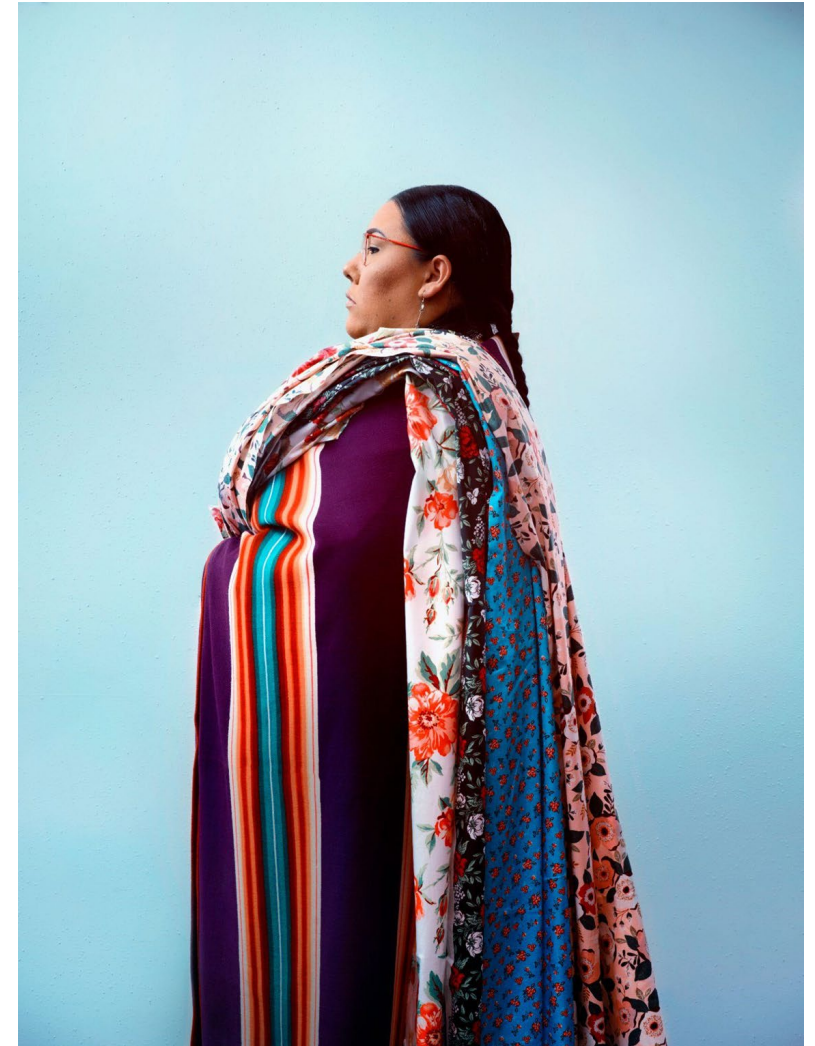
**Cara Romero** (Chemehuevi, born 1977)  
*TV Indians*, 2017  
Archival inkjet print  
Courtesy of the artist © Cara Romero

# In Our Hands: Native Photography, 1890 to Now

Co-curated by Jill Ahlberg Yohe, Jaida Grey Eagle, and Casey Riley

## Curatorial Council Members

- **Rhéanne Chartrand** (Métis): Curator of Indigenous art, McMaster Museum of Art, McMaster University
- **Mique'l Icesis Dangeli** (Tsimshian): Assistant professor, University of the Fraser Valley
- **Rosalie Favell** (Metis): Artist
- **Tom Jones** (Ho-Chunk): Artist and associate professor, University of Wisconsin, Madison
- **Amy Lonetree** (Ho-Chunk): Professor, University of California, Santa Cruz
- **Shelley Niro** (Mohawk): Filmmaker and artist
- **Veronica Passalacqua**: Executive director, Gorman Museum of Native American Art, University of California, Davis
- **Jami Powell** (Osage): Associate director of curatorial affairs and curator of Indigenous art, Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College
- **Jolene Rickard** (Tuscarora): Associate professor, Cornell University
- **Cara Romero** (Chemehuevi): Artist
- **Hulleah J. Tsinhnahjinnie** (Seminole/Muscogee/Diné): Professor and director of the Gorman Museum of Native American Art, University of California, Davis
- **Emily Voelker**: Assistant professor, University of North Carolina, Greensboro
- **Laura Wexler**: Professor of American Studies and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Yale University
- **Will Wilson** (Citizen of the Navajo Nation): Artist and associate professor of photography, UT Austin



# In Our Hands: Native Photography, 1890 to Now



## Community Council Members

- **Alexandra Buffalohead** (Bdewakantowan Dakota and citizen of Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate): Artist, curator, and musician; arts and cultural engagement manager, Native American Community Development Institute and All My Relations Arts Gallery, Minneapolis
- **Sharon Day** (Bois Forte): Ojibwe leader; Native American activist, artist, and writer
- **Coral Gessner** (Multiracial): Equity, inclusion, and antiracism coordinator, Saint Paul Public Library
- **Rafael Gonzalez** (Mdewakanton Dakota/Boricua): Songwriter, producer, and activist known as Tufawon, Minneapolis
- **Heidi Inman** (Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate): Artist, photojournalist, and environmental activist
- **Delaney Keshena** (Menominee): Moccasin maker and fine artist
- **Bazille Owen-Reese** (Ho-Chunk Nation): Beadworker, New Mexico
- **Iyekiyapiwin Darlene St. Clair** (Lower Sioux Dakota Oyate): Associate professor, St. Cloud State University
- **Maryam Marne Zafar** (Lenape/African American/French-Dutch/Jewish): Graphic designer and visual strategist, Minneapolis

**Dorothy Chocolate Carseen** (Tłıchǫ, born 1959)  
*Feast at Fort Franklin, Northwest Territories*, 1981  
Gelatin silver print  
Indigenous Art Centre Collection at Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

# In Our Hands: Native Photography, 1890 to Now

## *A World of Relations*



Russel Albert Daniels [Diné (Navajo) and Ho-Chunk, born 1974], *Blizzard conditions help the DAPL security lights illuminate the Oceci Sakowin camp at the Standing Rock Sioux Nation, December 4, 2016*, 2016  
Courtesy of the artist

# In Our Hands: Native Photography, 1890 to Now

## *A World of Relations*



Rosalie Favell (Metis, born 1958), *Holding Her Ground*, 2021, from *Family Legacy* series  
Inkjet print  
Gift of funds from Nancy and Rolf Engh, 2022.42



Cara Romero (Chemehuevi, born 1977), *Hermosa*, 2021  
Archival HD pigment print on Canson Baryta Prestidge paper,  
Minneapolis Institute of Art, Gift of funds from Eric and Celita  
Levinson 2021.81

# In Our Hands: Native Photography, 1890 to Now

## *Always Leaders*



**Matika Wilbur** (Swinomish and Tulalip, born 1984), *Dr. Henrietta Mann (Cheyenne)*, 2019  
Inkjet print, Courtesy of the artist

**Minneapolis Institute of Art**



**B. A. (Benjamin Alfred) Haldane** (Tsimshian, 1874–1941), *Benjamin A. Haldane Self-portrait in Studio in Metlakatla*, c. 1919–20 (printed 2023)  
Inkjet print, Ketchikan Museums, Benjamin Haldane Collections 89.2.14.21

# In Our Hands: Native Photography, 1890 to Now

## *Always Leaders*



**Bently Spang** Northern Cheyenne, born 1960 *War Shirt #1*, 1998  
From the series **Modern War**  
Mixed media Collection of Sandra P. Spang



**Lee Marmon** (Laguna Pueblo, 1925–2021), *Portrait of Lucy Lewis, Potter from Acoma, Painting on a Pot*, 1960  
Gelatin silver print, University of New Mexico Center for Southwest Research and the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center



# In Our Hands: Native Photography, 1890 to Now

*Always Present*



Jolene Rickard (Tuscarora Nation, Turtle Clan, born 1956)

*Lines of Power*, 2023

Inkjet print Collection of the artist

# In Our Hands: Native Photography, 1890 to Now

## *Always Present*



**Zig Jackson (Rising Buffalo)** [Sahnish (Arikara), Minitari (Hidatsa), Numakiki (Mandan), born 1957], *Indian Photographing Tourist Photographing Indians*, *Crow Agency, Montana*, 1991

Gelatin silver print Mount Holyoke College Art Museum, Purchase with the Madeleine Pinsof Plonsker (Class of 1962) Fund, 2018.8.2



**Tom Jones** (Ho-Chunk, born 1964), *Pendalton Price*, 2016  
Digital photograph with beadwork, Gift of funds from Lorraine R Hart  
2021.88.1

# In Our Hands: Native Photography, 1890 to Now

## Blessing & Protocols

### Gallery Blessing

Jim Thunderhawk (Lakota) will bless the exhibition galleries before the museum opens the morning of October 20, as well as the Native art permanent collection galleries.

### Burning Sage

Should Native visitors wish to burn sage, signage in the Native Reflection Room will direct them to ask security where to go.



Jim Thunderhawk blessing the **Headdress (Tsistsistas or Lakota)** before its display in 2015 (currently on view in G261).

# In Our Hands: Native Photography, 1890 to Now

## Blessing & Protocols

### Offerings

Offerings of tobacco, sage, sweetgrass, and cedar will be present in the Native Reflection Room for visitors to place in baskets throughout the exhibition, or to take home with them. Offerings placed in baskets will be carefully handled following Dakota protocols. They will be gathered regularly and buried under the large oak tree in Target Park with a blessing and a song.



**Thomas Fields** (Muscogee Creek/Cherokee, born 1951), *Dancing in the Sunlight*, 1999  
Digital black-and-white print on archival paper; originally shot on 35 mm infrared film, collection of the artist

# In Our Hands: Native Photography, 1890 to Now

## Programming



Brian Adams (Iñupiaq, born 1985)  
*Marie Rexford of Kaktovik, Alaska preparing maktak for the villages Thanksgiving Day feast, 2015*  
from *I am Inuit* series, Chromogenic print (medium format film), Courtesy of the artist

### Opening Conversations:

**“In Our Hands: Native Photography, 1890 to Now”**  
**Saturday, October 21 | 11am-3:45pm | Pillsbury Auditorium**  
**\$40; free for Native visitors**

#### **Panel: Always Present | 11am-12pm**

Hulleah J. Tsinhnahjinnie (Seminole/Muscogee/Diné)  
Amy Lonetree (Ho-Chunk)  
Sharon Day (Bois Forte)  
*Moderated by Casey Riley*

#### **Community Celebration Lunch | 12-1:45pm | Reception Hall**

Event attendees, Native community, and Mia staff welcome.  
Singing performance from Laura Hugo, 12:15-12:45pm

#### **Panel: Always Leaders | 1:45-2:45PM**

Jolene Rickard (Tuscarora)  
Iyekiyapiwin Darlene St. Clair (Lower Sioux Dakota Oyate)  
Tom Jones (Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin)  
*Moderated by Jill Ahlberg Yohe*

#### **Panel: A World of Relations | 2:45-3:45PM**

Rosalie Favell (Metis)  
Rhéanne Chartrand (Métis)  
Maryam Marne Zafar (Lenape/African American/Jewish)  
*Moderated by Jaida Grey Eagle*

# In Our Hands: Native Photography, 1890 to Now

## Programming Cont.



### Preview Party: In Our Hands

**Saturday, October 21 | 8-10PM | \$30; \$20 Mia members; \$10 Native community**

Join the Twin Cities' most creative and social fans of art and enjoy exclusive early access to "In Our Hands: Native Photography, 1890 to Now" before it opens to the general public.

### Educators' Evening: In Our Hands

**Thursday, October 26 | 4:30-6:30PM | Free**

Free event just for educators. Complimentary refreshments in Mia's Reception Hall, free admission to "In Our Hands," and opportunity to learn more about the exhibition from one of the curators.

### Meet at Mia: In Our Hands

**Thursday, November 9 | 5-9PM | Free**

Join us to experience the exhibition with unique activities, drinks, and music. Food and drink will be available for purchase.

### The Arnold and Augusta Newman Lecture Series: Shelley Niro

**Sunday, November 12 | 2PM | Free, reservations required**

Listen to celebrated photographer and filmmaker Shelley Niro (Mohawk) discuss her career and artistic practice after a free screening of her 2019 feature-length film *The Incredible 25th Year of Mitzi Bearclaw*.

**Pat Kane** (Algonquin Anishinaabe, Timiskaming First Nation, born 1979), **Maryann Mantla, Gameti**, 2017 (printed 2023) Inkjet print Collection of the artist

# In Our Hands: Native Photography, 1890 to Now

Programming Cont.



Josie Lampone, Erica Lord (In Our Hands artist), Jaida Grey Eagle. Santa Fe, NM.

## Artist Talk: Jaida Grey Eagle

**Sunday, December 3 | 2PM | \$10; \$8 Mia members**

Join “In Our Hands” co-curator Jaida Grey Eagle (Oglala Lakota) for a lecture and conversation regarding her multidisciplinary artistic practice. Grey Eagle is an internationally recognized photojournalist, producer, beadwork artist, and writer whose work has been featured in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and the *Sahan Journal*.

## “In Our Hands” Member Days

**November 12 & 30, December 15 & 30 | Free for members**

Enjoy the benefits of your membership and experience “In Our Hands” for free during Member Days. Members will also receive a free limited edition poster to take home, while supplies last.

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## Native Guide Program

In addition to regular public exhibition tours, Native visitors may request tours led by Native guides via the [Tour Request Form](#). Please note: Due to limited availability, these tours will take place Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons.

# In Our Hands: Native Photography, 1890 to Now

Publication & Local Artists Insert

## Exhibition Catalogue

Published by the Minneapolis Institute of Art  
Distributed by Yale University Press

Available at The Store at Mia in October 2023



IN OUR HANDS  
NATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY, 1890 TO NOW





# In Our Hands: Native Photography, 1890 to Now

Publication & Local Artists Insert

## Local Artists Insert

A catalogue addendum highlighting the Minnesota region photographers in the show, written by co-curator Jaida Grey Eagle and Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Fellow Justice Jensvold, will be available in late October.

## IN OUR HANDS

NATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY, 1890 TO NOW

### Mni Sota Makoce [Minnesota Region] Photographers

Mia's presentation of *In Our Hands: Native Photography, 1890 to Now* features the work of many Indigenous artists, including several from this region. The following biographies, written by Jaida Grey Eagle, co-curator of *In Our Hands*, and Justice Jensvold, Mia's Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Fellow, turn the spotlight on photographs by Joseph J. Allen, Sharon M. Day, Dyana DeCoteau-Dyess, Ne-Dah-Ness Greene, Dawn E. LeBeau, and Eunice Straight Head, all of which are included in the exhibition in Minneapolis. We are honored to display their work at Mia.

**Minneapolis Institute of Art**

**Thank you!**

**Mia**