



Smithsonian  
*National Museum of the American Indian*

## Toba Tucker photographs

Tazbah A. Gaussoin

2011, Revised 2020

National Museum of the American Indian  
4220 Silver Hill Rd  
Suitland 20746-2863  
nmaiarchives@si.edu  
<http://nmai.si.edu/explore/collections/archive/>

# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Arrangement note.....	2
Biographical/Historical note.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	4

---

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Museum of the American Indian
<b>Title:</b>	Toba Tucker photographs
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAI.AC.030
<b>Date:</b>	1981, 1995-1997
<b>Extent:</b>	23 Photographic prints (Cibachrome)
<b>Creator:</b>	Tucker, Toba
<b>Language:</b>	No linguistic content; Not applicable .
<b>Summary:</b>	This collection contains 23 prints that were shot by photographer Toba Tucker of Diné (Navajo) portraits and landscapes from 1981 and Pueblo portraits from 1995-1997.

---

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

P28392-P28393- Gift of Robert Menschel, 2000; P28414- Gift of Dr. Roland Force, 1986;  
P28394-P28414- Gift of Toba Tucker, 1983.

### Processing Information

NMAIA Review

### Processing Information

Collection processed by Tazbah A. Gaussoin, Museum Specialist, 2020

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Toba Tucker Photographs, Collection NMAI.AC.030; National Museum of the American Indian Archive Center, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

Access is by appointment only, Monday - Friday, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. Please contact the archives to make an appointment.

### Conditions Governing Use

Permission to publish materials from the collection must be requested from National Museum of the American Indian Archive Center. Please submit a written request to [nmaiphotos@si.edu](mailto:nmaiphotos@si.edu). For personal or classroom use, users are invited to download, print, photocopy, and distribute the images that are available online without prior written permission, provided that the files

are not modified in any way, the Smithsonian Institution copyright notice (where applicable) is included, and the source of the image is identified as the National Museum of the American Indian. For more information please see the Smithsonian's [Terms of Use](#) and NMAI Archive Center's [Digital Image request](#) website.

---

## Biographical Note

Toba Pato Tucker is a self-taught American professional photographer from New York City. Tucker started working in photography in the 1970s through teachings from photographers, Harold Feinstein and Toby Old. With their assistance she became proficient in developing negatives and printing in black and white prints. In 1980, she received a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) which allowed her to live on the Navajo reservation and work with the Navajo-Hopi Land Dispute Commission of the Navajo Nation. This began her quest of photographing Native Americans. In addition to the grant from the NEA, she has been awarded many other grants, is published in several magazines and publications, has works in various museum collections, and has taught at New York's International Center of Photography. Tucker currently resides in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

---

## Scope and Contents

This collection contains 23 prints by photographer, Toba Tucker. Of these prints, 21 were taken during the summer of 1981 in the Joint Use Area (Jeddito Island, White Cone, and Teesto) on the Navajo Reservation. These photographs were made with a 6x6-cm (2 ¼-sq.) SLR, 120-mm lens, and Koda-color II color-print film, and were taken in the local Chapter Houses using only natural lighting. Tucker primarily works in black-and-white but chose to process and print these photographs in color resulting in her first experiences with colored work.

Of these prints, two portraits were taken from 1995 to 1997 during a two-and-a-half-year project funded by the Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation which allowed Tucker to photograph traditional and contemporary Pueblo artists in New Mexico and Arizona. During this project Tucker explored the relationships between traditional, centuries-old techniques and the emerging vision of contemporary artists. This project led to the 1998 publication of *Pueblo Artists: Portraits* by the Museum of the New Mexico Press.

---

## Arrangement

Prints: organized in boxes; arranged by print number.

---

## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Acoma Pueblo  
Diné (Navajo)  
K'apovi (Santa Clara Pueblo)

Cultures:

Acoma Pueblo  
Diné (Navajo)  
K'apovi (Santa Clara Pueblo)

Types of Materials:

Cibachrome (TM)  
Photographic prints  
Photographs

Geographic Names:

Arizona  
New Mexico

---

## Container Listing

- Oversize A54      P28392: Dolly Naranjo-Neikrug [K'apovi (Santa Clara Pueblo)], 1995  
*1 Photographic print*  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
Black and white portrait of Dolly Naranjo-Neikrug [K'apovi (Santa Clara Pueblo)] wearing a velvet outfit, sitting with her hands placed on her lap next to two pieces of pottery on a table. Photograph taken in 1995 by Toba Tucker. Photograph published in Pueblo Artists: Portraits by the Museum of the New Mexico Press on page 8.  
  
Culture:            K'apovi (Santa Clara Pueblo)
- Oversize A54      P28393: Sandra Victorino [Haak'u (Acoma Pueblo)], 1997  
*1 Photographic print*  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
Black and white portrait of Sandra Victorino [Haak'u (Acoma Pueblo)] holding a pottery on her right shoulder with both hands. Photograph taken in 1997 by Toba Tucker. Photograph published in Pueblo Artists: Portraits by the Museum of the New Mexico Press on page 97.  
  
Culture:            Acoma Pueblo
- Oversize C2      P28394: Stella Begay [Diné (Navajo)], 1981  
*1 Photographic print*  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
Portrait of Stella Begay [Diné (Navajo)] sitting with her left shoulder towards the viewer with three quarters of her face showing. Her hair is pulled back into a tsiiyéel or traditional Navajo bun and she is wearing a royal blue velvet shirt and a turquoise necklace. Photograph taken at Coal Mine Mesa, AZ on December 3, 1981 by Toba Tucker.  
  
Culture:            Diné (Navajo)
- Oversize C2      P28395: Anita Begay [Diné (Navajo)], 1981  
*1 Photographic print*  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
Portrait of Anita Begay [Diné (Navajo)] sitting in a three-quarter view with her hair pulled back. She is wearing a red floral scarf around her head and it is tied under her chin. She is also wearing a dark magenta shirt with a turquoise necklace and turquoise cluster pin. Photograph taken at Coal Mine, AZ Mesa on December 3, 1981 by Toba Tucker.  
  
Culture:            Diné (Navajo)
- Oversize C2      P28396: Ruby Gishal [Diné (Navajo)] and Betty Bedoni [Diné (Navajo)], 1981

*1 Photographic print*

[Image\(s\)](#)

Portrait of Ruby Gishal [Diné (Navajo)] and Betty Bedoni [Diné (Navajo)], mother and daughter, sitting together. Ms. Gishal's hands are on her lap while Ms. Bedoni has her left arm wrapped around her mother and her right hand is on top of her mother's hand. They are both wearing cotton shirts and dresses with turquoise cluster pins, and silver bracelets with turquoise stones. Ms. Bedoni is also wearing a lightweight black silk scarf on her head. Photograph taken at Jeddito Island on June 17, 1981 by Toba Tucker.

Culture: Diné (Navajo)

Oversize C2

P28397: Elvira Morgan [Diné (Navajo)] and Martha Morgan [Diné (Navajo)], 1981

*1 Photographic print*

[Image\(s\)](#)

Portrait of Elvira Morgan [Diné (Navajo)] and Martha Morgan [Diné (Navajo)], grandmother and granddaughter, sitting together with their hands on their laps. Elvira is wearing a dark maroon shirt with a blue floral cotton Navajo skirt, a lightweight black silk scarf tied on her head, a silver pin and bracelet with turquoise stones, and a turquoise jacla necklace. Martha is wearing a dark green velvet shirt with jeans. Photograph taken at White Cone, AZ on June 18, 1981 by Toba Tucker.

Culture: Diné (Navajo)

Oversize C2

P28398: Merlinda Lewis [Diné (Navajo)] and Patrick Lewis [Diné (Navajo)], 1981

*1 Photographic print*

[Image\(s\)](#)

Portrait of Merlinda Lewis [Diné (Navajo)] and Patrick Lewis [Diné (Navajo)], sister and brother, sitting next to each other with their hands on their laps. They are both wearing cotton shirts and jeans. Merlinda has her hair in pigtail braids and is wearing a paperclip bracelet on her right wrist. Photograph taken at White Cone, AZ on June 18, 1981 by Toba Tucker.

Culture: Diné (Navajo)

Oversize C3

P28399: Bennie H. James [Diné (Navajo)] and Gilbert James [Diné (Navajo)], 1981

*1 Photographic print*

[Image\(s\)](#)

Portrait of Bennie H. James [Diné (Navajo)] and Gilbert James [Diné (Navajo)], grandfather and grandson. Gilbert is sitting on Bennie's right leg with his right hand to his mouth. Bennie is wearing a light blue cotton collared shirt, jeans, and a white baseball cap with a yellow and blue design on it. Gilbert is wearing a red, white, and blue cotton shirt, jeans, and a leather belt with a cow skull on it. Photograph taken at Jeddito Island, AZ on June 12, 1981 by Toba Tucker.

Culture: Diné (Navajo)

- Oversize C3 P28400: Bernice Begay [Diné (Navajo)] and Bah Chee [Diné (Navajo)], 1981  
*1 Photographic print*  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
Portrait of Bernice Begay [Diné (Navajo)] and Bah Chee [Diné (Navajo)], mother and daughter, sitting next to each other. Ms. Begay is looking down and has her right hand on her daughter's leg. She is wearing a colorful scarf on her head, which is tied under her chin, a lavender velvet shirt, a blue cotton Navajo skirt, and silver bracelet. Ms. Chee has her left arm around her mother and her right hand is on top of a green scarf and placed next to her mother's hand. She is wearing a navy-blue velvet shirt, a lavender cotton Navajo skirt, a silver and turquoise bracelet, and turquoise jacla earrings. Photograph was taken at Jeddito Island, AZ on June 16, 1981 by Toba Tucker.
- Culture: Diné (Navajo)
- Oversize C3 P28401: Joseph W. Nelson [Diné (Navajo)], 1981  
*1 Photographic print*  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
Portrait of Joseph W. Nelson [Diné (Navajo)] wearing a white cowboy hat, eyeglasses, a dark blue cotton collared shirt with a pin in front. Mr. Nelson is holding the pin on his shirt which reads "Chief Navajo Hopi Reservation". Photograph taken at White Cone, AZ on June 18, 1981 by Toba Tucker.
- Culture: Diné (Navajo)
- Oversize C3 P28402: Mary Pete Nelson [Diné (Navajo)], 1981  
*1 Photographic print*  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
Mary Pete Nelson [Diné (Navajo)] holding a piece of wood, standing in front of a Hogan. Ms. Nelson is wearing a royal blue velvet shirt, a dark coral Navajo skirt, a black scarf on her head and tied around her neck, a turquoise cluster pin, a turquoise jacla necklace, and a silver bracelet with turquoise stones. Photograph taken at Jeddito Island, AZ on June 16, 1981 by Toba Tucker.
- Culture: Diné (Navajo)
- Oversize C3 P28403: Elle Benally [Diné (Navajo)], 1981  
*1 Photographic print*  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
Elle Benally [Diné (Navajo)] with her hands placed on her lap kneeling on the ground on a lime green shawl in front of a wood turquoise door and an unplastered house. Ms. Benally is wearing a royal purple velvet shirt, a blue cotton Navajo skirt, a turquoise jacla necklace, and a silver ring with a turquoise stone. Photograph taken at Jeddito Island, AZ on June 16, 1981 by Toba Tucker.
- Culture: Diné (Navajo)
- Oversize C4 P28404: View of Hogan, 1981



*1 Photographic print*

[Image\(s\)](#)

View of the front of a Hogan with a (mud or sod) roof. In the background is a dirt road and juniper trees. Photograph taken at Jeddito Island, AZ in 1981 by Toba Tucker.

Culture: Diné (Navajo)

Oversize C4

P28405: Landscape, 1981

*1 Photographic print*

[Image\(s\)](#)

Landscape view of blue sky over desert flora with a mountain and mesa in the background. A small arroyo is in the left foreground. Photograph taken at Teesto Reservation, AZ in 1981 by Toba Tucker.

Culture: Diné (Navajo)

Oversize C4

P28406: Hosteen Bob [Diné (Navajo)], 1981

*1 Photographic print*

[Image\(s\)](#)

Portrait of Hosteen Bob [Diné (Navajo)] wearing a light blue snap button cotton collared shirt and blue jeans. Hosteen Bob's hair is pulled back and he is holding a worn straw cowboy hat in his lap. He is also wearing silver rings on each hand, one has a turquoise stone. Photograph taken at Teesto Reservation, AZ on June 11, 1981 by Toba Tucker.

Culture: Diné (Navajo)

Oversize C4

P28407: Louise Bahe [Diné (Navajo)], 1981

*1 Photographic print*

[Image\(s\)](#)

Portrait of Louise Bahe [Diné (Navajo)] wearing a turquoise shirt, a turquoise cluster pin, and earrings with her hair pulled back. Ms. Bahe is the daughter of Bernice Begay [Diné (Navajo)]. Photograph taken at Jeddito Island, AZ on June 12, 1981 by Toba Tucker.

Culture: Diné (Navajo)

Oversize C4

P28408: Zonnie Bahe [Diné (Navajo)], 1981

*1 Photographic print*

[Image\(s\)](#)

Portrait of Zonnie Bahe [Diné (Navajo)] wearing a brown silk shirt, a Navajo silver bow tie pin with a turquoise stone, and her hair pulled back. Photograph taken at Jeddito Island, AZ on June 12, 1981 by Toba Tucker.

Culture: Diné (Navajo)

Oversize C5

P28409: John B. Nez [Diné (Navajo)], 1981

*1 Photographic print*

[Image\(s\)](#)

Portrait of John B. Nez [Diné (Navajo)] wearing a blue cowboy hat that has a silver tie tack with a coral stone pinned on the front, a blue collared shirt, a silver ring with a large turquoise stone, a leather belt, and a silver belt buckle with a gold design of a cowboy riding a bull and gold lettering of "Rodeo #1 Sport" on it. Mr. Nez is standing with his arms crossed against his body. Photograph taken at White Cone, AZ on June 18, 1981 by Toba Tucker.

Culture: Diné (Navajo)

Oversize C5

P28410: Thelma Yellowhair [Diné (Navajo)], 1981

*1 Photographic print*

[Image\(s\)](#)

Three-quarter portrait of Thelma Yellowhair [Diné (Navajo)] wearing a burnt orange velvet shirt, a floral-patterned skirt, a turquoise jacla necklace, a turquoise cluster ring, and silver bracelets with turquoise stones. Ms. Yellowhair's hair is pulled back into a traditional tsiiyéet or traditional Navajo bun. Photograph taken at White Cone, AZ on June 18, 1981 by Toba Tucker.

Culture: Diné (Navajo)

Oversize C5

P28411: Joseph W. Nelson [Diné (Navajo)], 1981

*1 Photographic print*

[Image\(s\)](#)

Portrait of Joseph W. Nelson [Diné (Navajo)] wearing an emerald green collared shirt and eyeglasses while holding a cowboy hat with a feather tied with a leather hat band on his lap. Photograph taken at White Cone, AZ on June 18, 1981 by Toba Tucker.

Culture: Diné (Navajo)

Oversize C5

P28412: Clark Tsosie [Diné (Navajo)], 1981

*1 Photographic print*

[Image\(s\)](#)

Portrait of Clark Tsosie [Diné (Navajo)] wearing a burgundy collared shirt, a silver ring and bracelet with turquoise stones on his right hand, and a silver belt buckle with turquoise and coral stones. Mr. Tsosie is sitting with his right hand on his knee and with his left hand on top of a cowboy hat which is placed on his left thigh. Photograph taken at Teesto, AZ on June 22, 1981 by Toba Tucker.

Culture: Diné (Navajo)

Oversize C5

P28413: Selina James [Diné (Navajo)], 1981

*1 Photographic print*

[Image\(s\)](#)

Portrait of Selina James [Diné (Navajo)] wearing a dark teal linen collared shirt, a scarlet red Navajo skirt, and a turquoise cluster pin. Ms. James is sitting in a three-quarter view with her hands placed on her lap with her palms up and her

hair in a low ponytail placed over her right shoulder. Photograph taken at Jeddito Island, AZ on June 12, 1981 by Toba Tucker.

Culture: Diné (Navajo)

Oversize A54

P28414: Selina James [Diné (Navajo)], 1981  
*1 Photographic print*

[Image\(s\)](#)

Portrait of Selina James [Diné (Navajo)] wearing a dark teal linen collared shirt, a scarlet red Navajo skirt, and a turquoise cluster pin. Ms. James is sitting in a three-quarter view with her hands placed on her lap with her palms up and her hair in a low ponytail placed over her right shoulder. Photograph taken at Jeddito Island, AZ on June 12, 1981 by Toba Tucker.

Culture: Diné (Navajo)