



Smithsonian

National Museum of the American Indian

Abigail Adler Diné (Navajo) photographs

Tazbah Gaussoin

2019

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	Abigail Adler Diné (Navajo) photographs
Date:	1976-1979
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.373
Creator:	Adler, Abigail
Extent:	11 Photographic prints 0.03 Linear feet (3 folders)
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection contains 11 gelatin silver prints that were shot by photographer Abigail Adler throughout the Navajo Reservation in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah in 1976 and 1979.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Gift of Gail Adler Hughes (Abigail Adler), 1979.

Processing Information

Processed by Tazbah Gaussoin [Picuris Pueblo, Diné (Navajo)], Museum Specialist, in 2019.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Abigail Adler Diné (Navajo) photographs, catalog #; National Museum of the American Indian Archive Center, Smithsonian Institution.

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Conditions Governing Use

Some images restricted: Cultural Sensitivity

Biographical / Historical

Abigail Adler is an American professional photographer with a degree in Anthropology from Barnard College in New York City. Adler lived on the Navajo Reservation for five years and began her career as a reporter and photographer, using Leica M3's and a Rolleiflex cameras, while working for the Navajo Times. She received funding through the Navajo Nation and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for her project titled Navajo Matriarchs, which illustrated the complex, modern lives of Navajo Women of all ages and traditions. Adler currently lives in Santa Fe, NM and works as a radio newscaster.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains 11 gelatin silver prints that were shot by photographer Abigail Adler throughout the Navajo Reservation in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah in 1976 and 1979. The photographs depict Diné (Navajo) individuals and family portraits; ceremonial scenes, such as a Kinaaldá (girl's puberty ceremony), portrait of woman and mother on wedding day, and a Medicine Man with sand painting; and daily activities such as planting corn, outdoor cooking, and traveling by horse-drawn wagon. Photographs from this collection were possibly part of Adler's "Navajo Matriarch" project funded by the Navajo Nation and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Arrangement

This collection has been organized into three folders. Folder 1 (P34072- P34074): Individual and family portraits, folder 2 (P34066- P34068, P34071): ceremonial scenes, and folder 3 (P34069- P34070, P34075- P34076): landscape and daily activities.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Diné (Navajo)
New Mexico
Photographs
Utah

Cultures:

Diné (Navajo)

Names:

National Endowment for the Arts
Navajo Nation, Arizona, New Mexico & Utah

Places:

Arizona

Container Listing

Photo-folder 1	<p>P34074: Portrait of Medicine Man, Sonny Claus Chee [Diné (Navajo)], 1979 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: Portrait of Medicine Man, Sonny Claus Chee [Diné (Navajo)] born circa 1898, wearing a bolo tie, cotton shirt, and broad-brimmed hat. Photograph taken in 1979 by Abigail Adler in Tsaile, Arizona on the Navajo Reservation.</p> <p>Culture: Diné (Navajo)</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>P34073: Medicine Man, Frank Nez [Diné (Navajo)] , 1979 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: Medicine Man, Frank Nez [Diné (Navajo)] holding a cane, standing in front of Hogan door, and next to a cast-iron stove. Photograph taken in 1979 by Abigail Adler in White Cone, Arizona on the Navajo Reservation.</p> <p>Culture: Diné (Navajo)</p>
Photo-folder 1	<p>P34072: Mrs. Wilson [Diné (Navajo)] and Daughter, 1979 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: Mrs. Wilson [Diné (Navajo)] and daughter sitting next to each other inside Hogan in Arizona on the Navajo Reservation. Mrs. Wilson is dressed in traditional clothing and her daughter is dressed in contemporary clothing. Photograph taken in 1979 by Abigail Adler.</p> <p>Culture: Diné (Navajo)</p>
Photo-folder 2	<p>P34066: Nez Family Members [Diné (Navajo)] at a Kinaaldá (Girl's Puberty Ceremony), 1979 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: Nez family members [Diné (Navajo)] seated, and standing in a field during a Kinaaldá (girl's puberty ceremony). One of the women seated is cutting a cake, made from corn meal, which was baked in the ground the night before just outside of the Hogan. The cake will be dispersed to the group except for the young girl, in the blanket and holding a basket, who is the main participant in the Kinaaldá. Photograph taken in 1979 by Abigail Adler in White Cone, Arizona on the Navajo Reservation.</p> <p>Culture: Diné (Navajo)</p>
Photo-folder 2	<p>P34068: RESTRICTED: Diné (Navajo) Medicine Man and Young Girl with Sand Painting, 1976 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: Image restricted due to cultural sensitivity.</p> <p>RESTRICTED: Diné (Navajo) Medicine Man seated in a shade house, holding a rattle, with young girl seated in front of him and in the center of a sand painting. Photograph taken in 1976 by Abigail Adler in Monument Valley, Utah on the Navajo Reservation.</p> <p>This image is restricted due to cultural sensitivity.</p>

	Culture: Diné (Navajo)
Photo-folder 2	<p>P34067: RESTRICTED: Diné (Navajo) Medicine Man Destroying a Sand Painting , 1976 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: Image restricted due to cultral sensitivity. RESTRICTED: Diné (Navajo) Medicine Man destroying a sand painting in a shade house. Photograph taken in 1976 by Abigail Adler in Monument Valley, Utah on the Navajo Reservation. This image is restricted due to cultural sensitivity.</p> <p>Culture: Diné (Navajo)</p>
Photo-folder 2	<p>P34071: Thelma Begay Callan [Diné (Navajo)] on Her Wedding Day with Mother, Mitzi [Diné (Navajo)], 1979 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: Thelma Begay Callan [Diné (Navajo)] on her wedding day with her mother, Mitzi [Diné (Navajo)]. Thelma is dressed in her non-traditional wedding dress and holding flowers with her mother standing behind her wearing traditional clothing. Photograph taken in 1979 by Abigail Adler in Window Rock, Arizona on the Navajo Reservation.</p> <p>Culture: Diné (Navajo)</p>
Photo-folder 3	<p>P34075: View of an Adobe Hogan and Desert Landscape, 1979 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: View of child running towards an adobe Hogan with sod roof. The Hogan is next to the shade house, and pickup truck with power lines in the distance. Photograph taken in 1979 by Abigail Adler in Arizona on the Eastern Navajo Reservation. Photo remarks on back: "Photo #7 Navajo Land Administration".</p> <p>Culture: Diné (Navajo)</p>
Photo-folder 3	<p>P34076: Loiuse Lamone Family [Diné (Navajo)] in Horse-drawn Wagon , 1979 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: Diné (Navajo) mother, daughter, and grandchild from the Loiuse Lamone family in horse-drawn wagon with rubber car tires driving on a dirt road. Photograph taken in 1979 by Abigail Adler in Burnham, New Mexico on the Navajo Reservation.</p> <p>Culture: Diné (Navajo)</p>
Photo-folder 3	<p>P34070: Katherine Smith [Diné (Navajo)] at Her Sheep Camp in Big Mountain, Arizona, 1979 1 Photographic print</p> <p>Notes: Katherine Smith [Diné (Navajo)] cooking and stirring the fire on an outdoor grill in her sheep camp in Big Mountain, Arizona, on the Navajo Reservation. There are two tents propped up and camp supplies hanging on a wood panel in the background. Photograph taken in 1979 by Abigail Adler.</p> <p>Culture: Diné (Navajo)</p>

Photo-folder 3

P34069: [Dale Pete's Sister \[Diné \(Navajo\)\], and Boy Standing in Field Planting Corn, 1979](#)

1 Photographic print

Notes: Diné (Navajo) woman, identified as Dale Pete's sister, holding a shovel and standing next to a boy in field while planting corn. The boy is holding a Folger's coffee can which may possibly have corn kernels in it for planting. Photograph taken in 1979 by Abigail Adler in White Cone, Arizona on the Navajo Reservation.

Culture: Diné (Navajo)