



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of the American Indian*

## Spirit Capture photograph collection

Emily Moazami

2023

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Museum of the American Indian
<b>Title:</b>	Spirit Capture photograph collection
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1984-1996
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAI.AC.384
<b>Creator:</b>	McNeil, Larry, 1950- (Photographer) Gus, Larry (Photographer) Grandbois, Dorothy (Photographer) Fogden, Katherine (Photographer) Jones, Janine Sarna (Photographer)
<b>Extent:</b>	50 Photographs
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	Photographs in this collection were shot mostly by Native photographers for the 1998 book, <i>Spirit Capture: Photographs from the National Museum of the American Indian</i> .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Photographs from Larry McNeil, Larry Gus, and Dorothy Grandbois were purchased by NMAI in 1996 for the *Spirit Capture* project. Photographs by Katherine Fogden and Janine Sarna Jones were created as part of their work as employed photographers at NMAI.

### Related Materials

Other photographs that were shot by NMAI photographers Katherine Fogden and Janine Sarna Jones for the *Spirit Capture* project are included in collection NMAI.AC.996, binders 135 and 136.

### Processing Information

Collection processed by Emily Moazami, Supervisory Archivist, 2023.

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Spirit Capture photograph collection, image #, NMAI.AC.384; National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

Access to NMAI Archives Center collections is by appointment only, Monday - Friday, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. Please contact the archives to make an appointment (phone: 301-238-1400, email: [nmaiarchives@si.edu](mailto:nmaiarchives@si.edu)).

## Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

*Spirit Capture: Photographs from the National Museum of the American Indian* was published in 1998 by NMAI and Smithsonian Institution Press. A corresponding exhibition of the same name ran from July 2001-2002 in New York City.

*Spirit Capture* brings together more than 200 images from the museum's collections with essays from Native and non-Native historians, anthropologists, and curators. Several Native photographers were commissioned to produce images for this publication and exhibition.

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## Scope and Contents

Photographs in this collection were shot mostly by Native photographers for the 1998 book, *Spirit Capture: Photographs from the National Museum of the American Indian*. Photographers include Larry McNeil [Tlingit/Nisga'a (Niska)], Larry Gus [Hopi Pueblo/Diné (Navajo)], Dorothy Grandbois (Turtle Mountain Chippewa), Katherine Fogden (Mohawk), and Janine Sarna Jones.

The photographs depict a variety of contemporary scenes in various Native communities.

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## Arrangement

Photographs arranged in folders by photographer.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Akwesasne Mohawk
- Choctaw
- Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl)
- Osage
- Taos Pueblo
- Tlingit

### Cultures:

- Akwesasne Mohawk

Choctaw  
Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl)  
Osage  
Taos Pueblo  
Tlingit

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Larry McNeil, circa 1984

*5 Slides (photographs)*

*4 Color transparencies*

*6 Photographic prints*

*Box 1 (slides)*

*Photo-folder 1 (photographs)*

Photographer: McNeil, Larry, 1950-

Biographical / Biography from *Spirit Capture* publication in 1998:

Historical:

Larry McNeil (Tlingit) is a studio and editorial photographer who has taught photography at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and is president of the Native Indian/Inuit Photographers' Association. His photography has appeared in numerous exhibitions and publications.

Scope and

P26511-P26518

Contents:

This series contains 5 color slides, 4 color transparencies, and 6 photographic prints shot by photographer Larry McNeil (Tlingit) circa 1984. The photographs were shot in Alaska and depict a variety of scenes including fishing, gathering saltwater grass, and portraits. The photographs were collected for the 1998 book, *Spirit Capture: Photographs from the National Museum of the American Indian*.

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## Series 2: Larry Gus, 1996

1 Slides (photographs) (color)

3 Color transparencies

3 Photographic prints

Box 1 (slides)

Photo-folder 2 (photographs)

Photographer: Gus, Larry

Biographical / Biography from *Spirit Capture* publication in 1998:

Historical:

Larry Gus (Navajo) is a freelance editorial and studio photographer based in Los Angeles. His work, which is highly respected among Native editors, has appeared in numerous Native publications and also mainstream newspapers, including the *Los Angeles Times*.

Scope and

P26519 - P26521

Contents:

This series contains 3 color transparencies, 1 color slide, and 3 photographic prints shot by photographer Larry Gus [Hopi Pueblo/Diné (Navajo)] in November 1996. The photographs depict the Taos Slot Room in Taos Pueblo, NM and the Cities of Gold Casino in Pojoaque Pueblo, NM. The photographs were made for the 1998 book, *Spirit Capture: Photographs from the National Museum of the American Indian*.

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## Series 3: Dorothy Grandbois, 1996

*7 Slides (photographs) (Color)*

*6 Photographic prints*

*Box 1 (slides)*

*Photo-folder 3 (photographs)*

Photographer: Grandbois, Dorothy

Biographical / Biography from *Spirit Capture* publication in 1998:

Historical: Dorothy Grandbois (Turtle Mountain Chippewa) is an award-winning photographer and alumna of Institute of American Indian Arts. At the age of five, she was sent away from home and attended both Catholic and government boarding schools, experiences that still influence her photographic work.

Scope and P26523-P26529

Contents: This series contains 7 color slides and 6 photographic prints shot by Dorothy Grandbois (Chippewa/Ojibwa) in 1996. The photographs depict students from the Sherman Indian High School in Riverside, California. The photographs were made for the 1998 book, *Spirit Capture: Photographs from the National Museum of the American Indian*.

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## Series 4: Katherine Fogden, 1996

*11 Color transparencies*

*Box 1*

Photographer: Fogden, Katherine

Biographical / Biography edited from *Spirit Capture*:

Historical: Katherine Fogden (Mohawk) is a photographer in at the National Museum of the American Indian. She has previously worked as an assistant curator and gallery manager at the American Indian Community House Art Gallery, and has shown her photographic work in numerous exhibitions.

Scope and P26530-P26534

Contents: This series contains 11 photographs shot by Katherine Fogden (Mohawk) circa 1996. The photographs depict portraits of people from the Akwesasne (St. Regis Mohawk Reserve), a Mohawk community located near the borders of New York, Quebec, and Ontario.

The photographs were made for the 1998 book, *Spirit Capture: Photographs from the National Museum of the American Indian*.

Culture: Akwesasne Mohawk

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## Janine Sarna Jones, 1996

### 3 Photographs

#### Photo-folder 4

Biographical / Biography edited from *Spirit Capture* publication in 1998:

Historical:

Janine Sarna Jones was a photo archive specialist in the Photo Archive of the National Museum of the American Indian.

Scope and

P26535-P26537

Contents:

This series contains 3 photographic prints that were shot by Janine Sarna Jones in 1996 and depicts portraits of Henry Seaweed who is the grandson of Southern Kwakiutl carver Chief Willie Seaweed (see photo P19648); Nema and Erin Magovern (Osage), the great-great-granddaughter and great-great-great granddaughter of Henry Red Eagle (see photo N27177); and a portrait of Nelson Henry (Choctaw), grandnephew of Albert Henry (see N02676).

The photographs were made for the 1998 book, *Spirit Capture: Photographs from the National Museum of the American Indian*.

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