



Smithsonian

National Museum of the American Indian

Peter Dechert photographs of Pueblo Artists

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2023

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical	2
Scope and Contents	2
Arrangement	3
Names and Subjects	
Container Listing	
Series 1: Lois Gutierrez de la Cruz (Lois Gutierrez) and Derek de la Cruz, August 3-10, 1975	4
Series 2: Gloria Garcia (Goldenrod) and John D. Garcia , August 10, 1975	5
Series 3: Popovi Da (Tony Martinez), March 1970	6
Series 4: Blue Corn (Crucita Gonzales Calabaza), 1975	7
Series 5: Ramoncita Sandoval (Ramoncita Cruz), August 1975	8
Series 6: Santiago Quintana, August 1975	9
Series 7: Minnie Vigil, August 1975	10
Series 8: Stella Shutiva, August 1975	11
Series 9: Pula Gutierrez and Val Gutierrez , circa 1975	12

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	Peter Dechert photographs of Pueblo Artists
Date:	circa 1970-1976
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.440
Creator:	Dechert, Peter (Photographer)
Extent:	515 Photographs
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Peter Dechert photographs of Pueblo Artists collection contains 412 negatives, 33 contact sheets, and 70 photographs documenting many Native artists of the American Southwest circa 1970-1976.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Gift of the Dechert family, 2023.

Related Materials

Other collections of Peter Dechert photographs reside at the New Mexico History Museum.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Emily Moazami, Supervisory Archivist, 2023.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Peter Dechert photographs of Pueblo Artists, image #, NMAI.AC.440; National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

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Biographical / Historical

Biography from the Peter Dechert's obituary published in the Santa Fe New Mexican on Dec. 27, 2016. It has been edited to fit this finding aid:

Peter Dechert, photojournalist and jazz musician, was born in 1924 in Philadelphia, PA. He was a graduate of the Los Alamos Ranch School (1941) and the University of Pennsylvania (BA 1948, MA 1950, PhD 1955). He also attended the Lawrenceville School and Episcopal Academy. A veteran of World War II, Dechert served in the 69th Infantry Division in France, Belgium, and Germany. While he was Staff Sergeant, Chief of Division Artillery Survey Section, his section was cited as the best of its kind in the US Army (1944). He was later appointed to Division Artillery Headquarters Intelligence. Peter taught himself photographic and darkroom techniques in his pre-teen years, and published his first photograph in Leica Magazine at the age of 15. Peter's photographs have been shown in a variety of gallery settings as well, from the Museum of Modern Art in New York to his own Camera West gallery in Santa Fe. During his time with the School of American Research (now SAR) he studied innovative techniques for using photography in archaeological research, including oblique aerial photography. He contributed a section on Communication, Photography, and the Archaeologist to SAR's publication *Photography in Archaeological Research*. As founder of the Southwest Foundation for Audiovisual Resources, he documented many Indian artists at work. An internationally-renowned expert in camera history, he was best known for his books *Canon Rangefinder Cameras 1933-68* and *Olympus Pen Single Lens Reflex Cameras*. In all, he wrote 5 books and several hundred articles on cameras and camera equipment. He loved poetry, taught modern American poetry at the University of Pennsylvania, and wrote many poems of his own. He served as the first President of the New Mexico Poetry Society. His poems have appeared in numerous anthologies and publications, including *New Mexico Magazine*, *Sunstone Review*, *The American Pen*, *The American Bard*, and more. Peter believed strongly in contributing to his community. During his years as President of the St. Vincent Hospital Foundation he raised funds for Santa Fe's first cancer treatment center. Peter passed away in Santa Fe, NM in 2016.

Scope and Contents

The Peter Dechert photographs of Pueblo Artists collection contains 412 negatives, 33 contact sheets, and 70 photographs documenting many Native artists of the American Southwest. The photographs were shot by photographer Peter Dechert, circa 1970-1976, and depict artists working in their studios and homes, as well as portraits of them with finished artwork. The images offer a behind-the-scenes look at artists and their artistic practices.

Artists documented in this collection include:

Lois Gutierrez de la Cruz (Lois Gutierrez) [Pojoaque Pueblo/K'apovi (Santa Clara Pueblo)]

Derek de la Cruz [K'apovi (Santa Clara Pueblo)]

Gloria Garcia (Goldenrod) [K'apovi (Santa Clara Pueblo)/Pojoaque Pueblo]

John D. Garcia [K'apovi (Santa Clara Pueblo)]

Jason Garcia (Okuu Pin) [Santa Clara Pueblo]

Popovi Da (Tony Martinez) [San Ildefonso Pueblo]

Blue Corn (Crucita Gonzales Calabaza) [San Ildefonso Pueblo]

Ramoncita Sandoval (Ramoncita Cruz) [Ohkay Owingeh (San Juan Pueblo)]

Santiago Quintana (Cochiti Pueblo)

Minnie Vigil [K'apovi (Santa Clara Pueblo)]

Stella Shutiva (Acoma Pueblo)

Pula Gutierrez [K'apovi (Santa Clara Pueblo)]

Val Gutierrez [K'apovi (Santa Clara Pueblo)]

Arrangement

Photographs arranged by artists and material type (negatives, contact sheets, and prints).

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Acoma Pueblo
- Cochiti Pueblo
- K'apovi (Santa Clara Pueblo)
- Ohkay Owingeh (San Juan Pueblo)
- Pojoaque Pueblo
- San Ildefonso Pueblo

Cultures:

- Acoma Pueblo
- Cochiti Pueblo
- K'apovi (Santa Clara Pueblo)
- Ohkay Owingeh (San Juan Pueblo)
- Pojoaque Pueblo
- San Ildefonso Pueblo

Container Listing

Series 1: Lois Gutierrez de la Cruz (Lois Gutierrez) and Derek de la Cruz, August 3-10, 1975

37 Negatives (photographic) (Black and white)

3 Contact sheets

14 Photographs

Binder 1, Sheet 1-14 (formerly A1-A4, A31-A33) (negatives)

Photo-folder 1-2 (photographs)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Scope and Contents: This series contains 37 negatives, 3 contact sheets, and 14 photographs depicting potters Lois Gutierrez de la Cruz (Lois Gutierrez) [Pojoaque Pueblo/K'apovi (Santa Clara Pueblo)] and Derek Sandoval de la Cruz [K'apovi (Santa Clara Pueblo)]. The photographs were shot by Peter Dechert on August 3, 1975. The images depict Lois and Derek at work creating pottery and outdoor portraits of them with finished works.

Culture: K'apovi (Santa Clara Pueblo)
Pojoaque Pueblo

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Gloria Garcia (Goldenrod) and John D. Garcia , August 10, 1975

36 Negatives (photographic)

3 Contact sheets

10 Photographs

Binder 1, Sheet 14-19 (formerly A4-A6) (negatives)

Photo-folder 3 (photographs)

Photo-folder 4 (photographs)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Scope and Contents: This series contains 36 negatives, 3 contact sheets, and 10 photographs depicting potter Gloria Garcia (Goldenrod) [K'apovi (Santa Clara Pueblo)/Pojoaque Pueblo] and artist John D. Garcia [K'apovi (Santa Clara Pueblo)]. The photographs were shot by Peter Dechert on August 10, 1975. The images depict Gloria and John working on their artwork, as well as outdoor portraits with their sons Jason Garcia (Okuu Pin) and John David Garcia, Jr. and Gloria's sister and brother-in-law Lois and Derek de la Cruz. This series also includes a flyer and newspaper related to Jason Garcia's artwork.

Culture: K'apovi (Santa Clara Pueblo)
Pojoaque Pueblo

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Popovi Da (Tony Martinez), March 1970

21 Negatives (photographic)

2 Contact sheets

4 Photographs

Binder 1, Sheet 20-22 (formerly A7) (negatives)

Photo-folder 5 (photographs)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Scope and Contents: This series contains 21 negatives, 2 contact sheet, 4 photographs depicting San Ildefonso Pueblo potter Popovi Da (also known as Tony Martinez; 1923-1971). The photographs were shot by Peter Dechert in March 1970. The images depict Popovi Da working on a pot, posing with finished pieces, and outdoor portraits.

Culture: San Ildefonso Pueblo

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Blue Corn (Crucita Gonzales Calabaza), 1975

62 Negatives (photographic)

2 Contact sheets

Binder 1, Sheet 23-27 (formerly A8-A9) (negatives)

Photo-folder 6 (photographs)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Scope and Contents: This series contains 62 negatives and 2 contact sheets depicting San Ildefonso Pueblo potter Blue Corn (also known as Crucita Gonzales Calabaza; 1921-1999). The photographs were shot by Peter Dechert in 1975 at the Santa Fe Market. The photographs depict Blue Corn working on her pottery, as well as finished works.

Culture: San Ildefonso Pueblo

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Ramoncita Sandoval (Ramoncita Cruz), August 1975

12 Negatives (photographic)

1 Contact sheet

2 Photographs

Binder 1, Sheet 28-29 (formerly A10) (negatives)

Photo-folder 7 (photographs)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Scope and Contents: This series contains 12 negatives, 1 contact sheet, and 2 photographs depicting Ohkay Owingeh (San Juan Pueblo) artist Ramoncita Sandoval (also known as Ramoncita Cruz; 1923-2019). The photographs were shot by Peter Dechert in August 1975. The photographs depict Ramoncita Sandoval sewing outdoors and posing with finished works.

Culture: Ohkay Owingeh (San Juan Pueblo)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 6: Santiago Quintana, August 1975

28 Negatives (photographic)

2 Contact sheets

5 Photographs

Binder 1, Sheet 30-35 (formerly A11-A13)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Scope and Contents: This series contains 28 negatives, 2 contact sheets, and 5 photographs depicting Cochiti Pueblo artist Santiago Quintana. The photographs were shot by Peter Dechert in August 1975. The photographs depict Santiago Quintana working on jewelry in his studio.

Culture: Cochiti Pueblo

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 7: Minnie Vigil, August 1975

28 Negatives (photographic)

2 Contact sheets

5 Photographs

Binder 1, Sheet 36-41 (formerly A14- A16) (negatives)

Photo-folder 8 (photographs)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Scope and Contents: This series contains 36 negatives, 3 contact sheets, and 5 photographs depicting K'apovi (Santa Clara Pueblo) artist Minnie Virgil (b. 1931). The photographs were shot by Peter Dechert in August 1975 and depict Minnie working on pottery, as well as posing with finished works.

Culture: K'apovi (Santa Clara Pueblo)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 8: Stella Shutiva, August 1975

120 Negatives (photographic)

10 Contact sheets

11 Photographs

Binder 1, Sheet 42-61 (formerly A17-A26) (negatives)

Photo-folder 9-10 (photographs)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Scope and Contents: This series contains 120 negatives, 10 contact sheets, and 11 photographs depicting Acoma Pueblo potter Stella Shutiva (1939-1997). The photographs were shot by Peter Dechert in August 1975 and depict Stella creating pieces of pottery, as well as firing pottery outdoors.

Culture: Acoma Pueblo

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 9: Pula Gutierrez and Val Gutierrez , circa 1975

48 Negatives (photographic)

4 Contact sheets

16 Photographs

Binder 1, Sheet 62-69 (formerly A27-A30) (negatives)

Photo-folder 11-12 (photographs)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Scope and Contents: This series contains 48 negatives, 4 contact sheets, and 16 photographs, depicting K'apovi (Santa Clara Pueblo) artists Pula Gutierrez and Val Gutierrez. The photographs were shot by Peter Dechert circa 1975. The photographs depict Pula and Val Gutierrez working on pottery indoors.

Culture: K'apovi (Santa Clara Pueblo)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)