

MUSKEGON
MUSEUM OF ART

EDWARD S. CURTIS
THE
NORTH AMERICAN
INDIAN

FEATURING THE ENTIRE COLLECTION OF PORTFOLIO PHOTOGRAVURES

MAY 11 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 10, 2017



PRESS KIT

EDWARD S. CURTIS THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN

MAY 11 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

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MUSKEGON
MUSEUM OF ART

296 W. Webster Ave., Muskegon, MI 49440

PH 231.720.2570

www.muskegonartmuseum.org

EDWARD S. CURTIS THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN

MAY 11 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 6, 2017, Muskegon, Michigan – The Muskegon Museum of Art presents *Edward S. Curtis: The North American Indian*, an exhibition of national significance that explores the depth, breadth, and lasting cultural legacy of Edward Curtis's monumental work. The exhibition, both survey and critique, tells the story of one of the most prominent photographers of his time, who sacrificed everything for his work on *The North American Indian*, only to die in obscurity.

Curtis's images have been extensively exhibited and collected, and have become iconic over the past century. Organized by the Muskegon Museum of Art, this exhibition will be perhaps the largest and most comprehensive survey ever presented of *The North American Indian*. For what may be the first time, the entire collection of all 723 portfolio photographs will be on display. Importantly, this thorough survey and overview of *The North American Indian* also examines the challenges and controversies that the work has faced through the years, and in our own time.

The North American Indian is recognized as the largest artistic collaboration and photographic achievement in history. Edward S. Curtis's portraits of Native Americans and their mores and rich culture are the result of his decades-long determined and desperate quest to document what he believed was a "vanishing race." Ultimately, Curtis lost his health, marriage, and prosperity, dying penniless, but his work influenced the way an entire nation viewed the indigenous peoples of North America. The exhibition offers a critical assessment of this work's meaning today.

Curtis's masterpiece consists of twenty volumes of extraordinary ethnographic research — completed by an amateur anthropologist with little formal schooling. Each volume, when delivered, was accompanied by a portfolio of photogravures — fine art intaglio-printed photographs. Ultimately, Curtis published approximately 222 complete sets. The MMA owns set #70, acquired by subscription from 1908 to 1930 and hand-signed by one of Curtis's most famous patrons, President Theodore Roosevelt.

Curtis's work documents the complex, diverse cultures of 117 named Native American tribes, clans, and groups, people who still exist today despite a half millennia of innumerable obstacles. Over a span of thirty years, it is estimated that more than 10,000 Native Americans participated in Curtis's massive endeavor, which also included audio recordings and a feature film, in addition to the book and portfolio project.

In addition to the 723 photogravures, the exhibition will include all the bound volumes, original field recordings of early nineteenth-century Native music, historic images of Curtis's life and times, and examples of Native cultural artifacts represented in the photogravures.

Edward S. Curtis: The North American Indian will open at the Muskegon Museum of Art on May 11, 2017, and runs through September 10, 2017. The Museum has committed over 80% of its gallery space for four months to this exclusive and inclusive exhibition. Visitors will have a unique opportunity to experience first-hand the enormous depth and breadth of Edward Curtis's vision and scholarship and to consider how Curtis's work has strongly and irrevocably influenced our view of Native American culture over the past century.

A diverse array of public programming in collaboration with area cultural partners, including the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, will accompany the exhibition.

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EDWARD S. CURTIS THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN

MAY 11 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

PSA Script

The Muskegon Museum of Art will present *Edward S. Curtis: The North American Indian* from May 11 through September 10, 2017, an exhibition of national significance that explores the depth, breadth, and lasting cultural legacy of Edward Curtis's monumental work. The exhibition, both survey and critique, tells the story of one of the most prominent photographers of his time, who sacrificed everything for his work on *The North American Indian*, only to die in obscurity. The exhibition will run May 11 through September 10, 2017.

Curtis's images have been extensively exhibited and collected, and have become iconic over the past century. Organized by the Muskegon Museum of Art, this exhibition will be perhaps the largest and most comprehensive survey ever presented of *The North American Indian*. For what may be the first time, the entire collection of all 723 portfolio photographs will be on display. Importantly, this thorough survey and overview of *The North American Indian* also examines the challenges and controversies that the work has faced through the years, and in our own time.

A wide-ranging schedule of special programs will accompany the exhibition. Visit muskegonartmuseum.org for more information.



EDWARD S. CURTIS THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN

MAY 11 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

ORGANIZING THE STORY OF *THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN*

Organized by the Muskegon Museum of Art, *Edward Curtis: The North American Indian* is one of the largest and most comprehensive surveys perhaps ever undertaken of Edward S. Curtis's life work. The exhibition includes all 723 photogravures (fine art intaglio-printed photographs) from the work's world-famous portfolios. The prints depict Native American life over a century ago in stunning portraits, landscapes, lifestyles, and, controversially and troubling for Native American and non-Indian critics and scholars, rituals, rites, and ceremonial regalia and objects.

The premises underlying this exhibition are that:

- *The North American Indian* is a national and international treasure.
- *The North American Indian* is a monumental achievement of ethnographic and photographic depth, representing one of the most significant aesthetic, historic and anthropological studies of the surviving late 19th and early 20th century Western Native American cultures.
- The individual photogravures that are included in this collection are an unmatched and profound expression of late 19th and early 20th century photographic Pictorialism and Romanticism.
- The Native American subjects were active and engaged participants and partners with Curtis in a collaborative ethnographic undertaking unlike any that had come before.
- *The North American Indian* provides a forum for the continued discussion of a diversity of opinions on Curtis's impact on our views of Native American history, culture, and identity in the face of a dominant culture.

As a way to study, appreciate, and critique Curtis's achievement and to help visitors experience Curtis's work in as intimate and accessible a way as possible, the exhibition is divided into a series of distinct but related thematic sections. In each of the sections of the exhibitions, Edward Curtis's photogravures are arranged thematically in groups that reflect the way he shaped his study of the Native American Indians he lived among for nearly forty years. In this way, visitors have the opportunity to experience and absorb the astonishing depth and range of the visual images, forging one's own relationship to Edward S. Curtis's profoundly important, but for some, troubling, ethnographic and artistic work

The Photogravures by Subject Matter

- Portraits (Nearly half of the 723 individual portfolio images are portraits)
- Families, Young People, and Children
- People at Work
- The Spiritual World, Rites, and Rituals
- Cultural Artifacts
- Dwellings and Architecture
- Landscapes, Animals, and Plants

Gallery Guide begins on next page...

Gallery Guide

Section 1: Lulu Miller and the Acquisition of *The North American Indian*

- Available only by subscription, the *North American Indian* was terrifically expensive in its time—\$3000 in 1907 for the volumes printed on a specially made Dutch vellum paper and \$3500 for the Japanese paper edition (almost \$80,000 in today's dollars). Lulu Miller, Muskegon's Hackly Public Library Director at the time, understood very early the importance of Curtis's work, and so secured subscription #70 for the library and community.
- The exhibition is, in part, a celebration of a singular, bold, visionary woman, and of the community of Muskegon as a whole that has respected and cared for the work for over 100 years. In Section 1 we tell this part of the story through original historical documents, letters, photographs, and other ephemera from the Museum's files.

Section 2: Edward S. Curtis Background and Biography

- Born in 1868 near Whitewater, Wisconsin, the son of an impoverished itinerant preacher and a farm wife, and later growing up in Cordova, Minnesota, Edward Curtis completed only a 6th grade education.
- At the age of 12, Curtis built his first camera with a lens his father brought back from the Civil War. In 1885 he worked for a year as an apprentice photographer in a St. Paul, Minnesota, studio.
- In 1886, he and his father moved to rural Washington Territory. Some of the family later followed, but his father died soon thereafter.
- As a young man, Curtis worked a number of grueling jobs including on railway crews, clam digging, and logging. In 1890, he severely injured his back logging and was nursed by a neighbor, Clara Philips. During his long recovery, he bought his first view camera. Two years later Curtis and Clara Philips married and he bought a half-interest in a Seattle photography studio.
- Between 1898 and 1905, Curtis won numerous national awards for his studio photography, including the grand prize and gold medal at the 1898 National Photographic Convention

Section 3: Life and Context: Edward Curtis and *The North American Indian*

- By 1897, Curtis was the sole owner of his own photography studio and was Puget Sound's most prominent and celebrated studio photographer.
- The same year, he began leading mountaineering expeditions on Mt. Rainier, sponsored by Portland's Mazamas Club. As a youngster, Curtis had spent many hours camping and canoeing in Wisconsin's and Minnesota's woods with his father, instilling in him a lifelong love of the outdoors and adventuring, and he became a gifted and passionate mountaineer.
- In probably the single luckiest and most important moment in his life, one late day in 1898 near dusk during a bad storm high on Rainer's glacier fields, Curtis rescued a group of lost climbers including George Bird Grinnell, chief of the U.S. Biological Survey and the founder of the Audubon Society; C. Hart Merriam, first chief of the Division of Economic Ornithology and Mammalogy of the United States Department of Agriculture, (today's United States Fish and Wildlife Service); and Gifford Pinchot, the head of Theodore Roosevelt's new U.S. Forest Department.
- Soon thereafter, Merriam recommended Curtis to the railroad magnate Edward Harriman as the official photographer for Harriman's 1899 Alaska Expedition. In the group were the noted scientist and writer John Muir, the naturalist John Burroughs, Grinnell and Merriam, and a veritable Who's Who of the leading American scientists, naturalists, and anthropologists of the day. Curtis sailed with this group for two months—a young man from the Midwest with a 6th grade education, daily absorbing the broad and diverse knowledge of the most important intellectuals and scientists of the day.
- In 1900, Grinnell, who had fostered deep ties to Northwest Montana's surviving Native American tribes, invited Curtis to photograph the Piegan's Sundance Ceremony. Curtis is deeply and permanently moved by the experience.

Continued...

Gallery Guide, continued...

- These two experiences together—all predicated by that chance rescue on Mt. Rainier—sets Curtis on his life's work: photographing all aspects of Native life (among surviving tribes west of the Missouri River), studying their culture and mores, recording songs and ceremonies, and recording and translating the languages of over eighty surviving Native American tribal groups. Like many leading scholars and humanists at the time, Curtis believed that Native American culture was disappearing forever under the crushing weight of Anglo-American cultural dominance and racism. Though Curtis and others would be proved wrong, it was this deeply-held belief that set Curtis on his mission. In a 1900 letter to George Bird Grinnell, he said, "It's such a big dream, I can't see it all."
- In 1904, he met President Theodore Roosevelt—through those fortuitous friendships formed on Mt. Rainier and the Harriman Expedition—and photographs the Roosevelt children, and later Roosevelt's daughter's wedding. Roosevelt becomes a deep and important friend, later contributing the Forward to the first volume of the *North American Indian*. And in 1906 Curtis meets J.P. Morgan, then the richest man in the world, who agrees to fund Curtis's field work for the *North American Indian* —but significantly and tragically, not a salary for what will become decades of work.
- When Volume I was published in 1907, it was celebrated by *The New York Herald* as, "The most gigantic undertaking since the making of the King James edition of the Bible," and received rave reviews throughout the U.S. and in major European newspapers and journals.
- In 1912, Curtis established a film company to help fund his work and invested heavily in his first film, *In the Land of the Headhunters*, filmed among the Kwakiutl people in the northern Pacific Northwest. The film is considered the first documentary and full-length film made about Native Americans. It premiered in New York in 1914 and was a critical success but a complete financial failure, even though it toured numerous American cities.
- After over four decades, many setbacks, World War I, the Great Depression, years at a time separated from Clara and their four children, a bitter and acrimonious divorce, a mysterious four-year hiatus in his work, the constant travel and nuisance of fundraising, and at times even real poverty, the work finally culminates: the completion of *the North American Indian*, the 20 volumes and their portfolios of photogravures delivered to subscribers between 1907 and 1930.
- Tragically, by 1930, and the delivery of the final volume, interest in Curtis's work and the *North American Indian* has all but evaporated. Curtis was broke; he had sold fewer than 250 subscriptions of the original, planned, and hoped for 500 that were intended; times and tastes had changed dramatically and permanently; and a man who had been a friend to Presidents and the powerful in politics and society on both coasts, the most celebrated society photographer in Puget Sound and beyond, the most famous "Indian photographer" of his day, was now virtually unknown, and the work unheralded and largely ignored.
- Curtis moved to Los Angeles to be close to two of his daughters in 1919—he was close to all four of his children—dabbled at mining, farming, and inventing, and wrote several treatises on different subjects. But he was virtually unknown in the photographic and intellectual worlds after the publication of the final volume of *The North American Indian* in 1930.
- It was not until the later 1970s that the *North American Indian* was rediscovered by a new generation and the monumental work found a new audience, but it was too late for Edward S. Curtis, who died of a heart attack on October 9, 1952 at the Los Angeles home of his daughter Beth.

Continued...

Section 4: Edward Curtis, The Artist

- *The North American Indian* contains over 2,200 illustrative photogravures bound into the 20 volumes. Each volume, when delivered, was accompanied by a portfolio of individual photogravures. All 723 individual portfolio gravures are included in this exhibition, as well as the volumes. But no artist maintains the highest aesthetic standards over the course of making thousands of pictures. Scholars estimate that Curtis made over 10,000 images during his work on the *North American Indian*.
- In Section 3 above and in this section, we feature over 100 of the indisputably best photogravures—the masterworks—that Curtis made during the many decades studying and living among Native American peoples. These are the iconic images that almost anyone recognizes today, even if they do not know the name Edward S. Curtis: *Canón de Chelly*, *The Vanishing Race*, *Chief Joseph*, *Mosa*, *Two Hopi Girls in Window*, *A Son of the Desert*, *At the Trysting Place*, *Qahatika Girl*, *The Rush Gatherer—Kutenai*, and so many other powerful, memorable images.
- Also included in this section are examples of Curtis's large-format view cameras and their glass-plate negatives, a group of the exquisite original copper plates from which the photogravures were printed, and a video on the complex and fascinating photogravure printing process.

Section 5: Legacy and Controversy

- Though Curtis's 20-volume masterpiece is today considered by many unmatched for its importance, not all contemporary artists, art historians, ethnographers, and anthropologists—Native and Anglo alike—are comfortable with some of its aesthetic and intellectual content. Curtis's portraiture, some argue, reinforces a reductive image of Native American culture as "primitive," "innocent," and worse. He clearly staged many of his images, sometimes dressing his subjects in clothing and regalia he carried with him throughout the West. Many of the images are obviously staged, stilted, and unnatural as Curtis sought to mold his subjects and their lives to his preconceived notions of what was "real" and "authentic" (as in, not influenced by Anglo culture) in Native culture.
- We will exhibit several of the published photogravures along with the original images which Curtis later doctored for publication, taking out the accidental inclusion of 20th century trappings—an alarm clock, a car, Anglo-influenced clothing—in this way "scrubbing" the finished image clean of any modern trappings.
- In this section we also bring together a diverse chorus of voices, both Native and non-Native, to consider, study, and interpret Curtis's legacy. Included are several Native artists, both their prints and paintings and their voices, who ask important questions about Curtis's assumptions and legacy, including Jim Denhomie (Ojibwa). Native and Anglo scholars whose views are also included in this section are Joe Horse Capture (Assiniboine), Deana Drutt (Kwakiutl), Rod Slemmons (Curator at Large, Museum of Contemporary Photography, Columbia College, Chicago), Louise Erdrich (Ojibwa) and several others.

Section 6: The Depth of the *North American Indian*

- In the museum's largest two galleries, over 300 of Edward Curtis's photogravures are arranged thematically in groups that reflect his strategy and the way he shaped his study.
- Curtis made wax cylinder recordings of over 80 tribes' stories, songs, and ceremonies and in this section there is a listening area where visitors can hear examples of this rare and precious ethnographic history.
- Also in this section, and throughout several of the above sections, there are numerous Native American cultural objects identical or closely related to Curtis's images of Native tools, art, clothing, toys, and other aspects of day-to-day life.
- This section will include a large-scale map of the Western U.S. showing the location of the tribes Curtis lived among and studied, as well as timelines of Curtis's life, American history from 1885 to 1930, and Native American history in the same time.

Section 7: The young people's art-making area

Fun and educational art activity area to enhance the exhibition experience and entertain youngsters.

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THE
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FEATURING THE ENTIRE COLLECTION OF PORTFOLIO PHOTOGRAVURES

May 11, 2017 – September 10, 2017 at the MUSKEGON MUSEUM OF ART
SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS to accompany the Exhibition

APRIL 2017

Community Read

April 5 through May 4

Community Read program by area library systems, focused on *Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher: The Epic Life and Immortal Photographs of Edward Curtis* by Timothy Egan. Eleven book discussion groups are scheduled at libraries, branches throughout Muskegon County, and in Spring Lake and Grand Haven, as well as at the MMA and the Book Nook and Java Shop in Montague. Participating libraries include Hackley Public Library, Muskegon Area District Libraries, White Lake Community Library, Spring Lake District Library, and Loutit District Library of Grand Haven. All libraries will be distributing free copies of *Short Nights* beginning in March, compliments of the MMA. Check library websites for details on discussion groups. [Schedule of Community Read Events at area libraries.](#)

Lecture

The Photography of Edward Curtis and the Myth of the “Vanishing Indian”: Dr. William Katerberg, Calvin College
Wednesday, April 26

7:00 pm: Spring Lake District Library

This lecture focuses on the how Edward Curtis portrayed Native Americans in his photography. It places him in the broader context of how artists depicted Native Americans from the late 18th century to the early 20th century. Like many Americans in his time, Curtis believed that Native Americans were fated to disappear as peoples and cultures. This belief shaped his goals in his photography, that is, trying to capture their traditions before they “vanished” as a race. Finally, the lecture compares Curtis’s depiction of Native Americans to their actual circumstances in the United States.

ArtSmarts Lecture Series

Tuesday, April 25, May 2, and May 9

7:00 pm: Muskegon Museum of Art [Doors open at 6:30pm]

Three-part lecture series presented by Friends of Art will feature nationally known Smithsonian scholar Nancy Fuller and Henry Viola, Curator Emeritus, National Museum of the American Indian at the Smithsonian Institution, along with Ben Mitchell, Guest Curator, *Edward Curtis: The North American Indian*.

MAY 2017

Opening Event

Thursday, May 11

5:30 pm - 8:00 pm Muskegon Museum of Art

The official opening of *Edward S. Curtis: The North American Indian* will commence at 5:30 pm with opening remarks and a traditional Native American Blessing Ceremony led by Larry Romanelli, Tribal Ogema, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, outdoors at the back entrance of the Museum. After the ceremony, the exhibition will be opened, and MMA docents will be on hand throughout the galleries to answer questions and refreshments and cash bar will be available at a public reception.

Bison, Bears and Eagles, Oh My! Super Saturday at the MMA

Saturday, May 13

10:00 am - 3:00 pm Muskegon Museum of Art and Lakeshore Museum Center

Animals play a large role in the life and culture of Native American tribes. Join us as we learn more about native animals big and small – explore the galleries, create a totem pole, watch a film and visit the LMC’s collection of species.

Special Programming continued...

Special Programming continued...

Presenting Timothy Egan

Wednesday, May 17

7:30 pm Frauenthal Theater

An evening with Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times Op-Ed reporter and National Book Award author, Timothy Egan, author of *Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher: The Epic Life and Immortal Photographs of Edward Curtis*, followed by a book-signing. Tickets: \$10; available at www.startickets.com, www.frauenthal.org, or the Box Office, Frauenthal Center.

JUNE 2017

Panel Presentation

Through the Lens: Exploring the Photographic Techniques of Edward Curtis

Thursday, June 1

5:30 pm Reception; 7:00 pm Panel Presentation: Muskegon Museum of Art

Moderated by Ben Mitchell, Guest Curator for *Edward Curtis: The North American Indian*

This program will focus on the technical challenges and the historical context in Edward Curtis's photography and film work. Panel participants include Leah Gose, Kendall College of Art & Design Assistant Professor of Photography; Toni Perrine, GVSU Professor of Film and Video Production; and Anthony Thompson, GVSU Professor of Photography. They will discuss Curtis's photography and film work, including printing processes for photogravures, dry-plate photography, his early film work, and all of the challenges he faced in his extensive, decades long fieldwork.

PRINT IT!

Printing Techniques and Hands-on Demonstration

Sunday, June 11

Hands-on workshop: 10:00 am and 2:00 pm: Muskegon Heritage Museum

The Muskegon Heritage Museum will present a special exhibition about Intaglio and Letterpress Printing in the MHM print shop featuring copper-etched plates and relief wood blocks as well as glass plate negatives from the collection of the Muskegon Heritage Museum, including a special demonstrations and hands-on workshop on the techniques and tools used in Intaglio and Letterpress printing. These tools, including a 100-year-old letterpress printing machine, and techniques are just like those used by Edward Curtis in the early part of the 20th century when he created the stunning photogravures of *The North American Indian*.

Film Screening

In the Land of the Head Hunters

Friday, June 16

At dark, on the deck of the USS LST 393 Veterans Museum

In 1914, Edward S. Curtis (1868-1952) produced a melodramatic, silent film entitled *In the Land of the Head Hunters*. This was the first feature-length film exclusively featuring Native North American culture and actors (eight years before Robert Flaherty's *Nanook of the North*). An epic story of love and war set before European contact, it featured non-professional actors from Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl) communities in British Columbia—a people already well-known then for their spectacular visual culture and performances. The film had gala openings in New York and Seattle in December 1914, accompanied by a live orchestral score composed by John J. Braham (1848-1919), best-known for his work with Gilbert and Sullivan.

Panel Presentation

Seeing Curtis: 21st Century Perspectives

Thursday, June 22

5:30 pm Reception; 7:00 pm Panel Presentation: Muskegon Museum of Art

Moderated by Ben Mitchell, Guest Curator for *Edward Curtis: The North American Indian*

- DEANA DARTT, Ph.D., Coastal Band, Chumash, Independent scholar and curator
- JIM DENOMIE, Prominent Native Ojibwe artist
- SHANNON MARTIN, Director, Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan

This panel program will focus on the controversies of Edward Curtis's work and today's perspectives on his legacy as seen by Native American artists and anthropologists.

Special Programming continued...

JULY 2017

PRINT IT!

Printing Techniques and Hands-on Demonstration

Sundays, July 2 & 23

Hands-on workshop: 10:00 am and 2:00 pm [See description under June 11]; **Muskegon Heritage Museum**

Lecture

The Code Talkers of World War II

Friday, July 7

6:00 pm: **USS Silversides Submarine Museum**

This special lecture will feature Peter MacDonald (born 1928), a Native American politician, the only four-term Chairman of the Navajo Tribe, and a member of the U.S. Marine Corps in World War II, who served as a Navajo Code Talker. McDonald will talk about the critical contributions that Native Americans made to victory in World War II.

Lakeshore Art Festival

Friday, July 7, 10:00 am - 8:00 pm and Saturday, July 8, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm: **Downtown Muskegon**

The Lakeshore Art Festival features a unique blend of arts, crafts, music, food, and fun in Downtown Muskegon. The events will include nearly 300 fine art and specialty craft exhibitors, children's activities, specialty food items, street performers, and multiple interactive art stations. This year, the Lakeshore Art Festival will host a chalk arts activity, reproducing art by Edward Curtis.

Michigan Indian Tribes Super Saturday at the MMA

Saturday, July 8

10:00 am - 3:00 pm: **Muskegon Museum of Art**

Explore and celebrate the rich heritage and culture of the many tribes that are a founding part of Michigan.

Lecture

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

Thursday, July 13

5:30 pm Reception; 7:00 pm Lecture: **Muskegon Museum of Art**

Larry Romanelli, Ogema, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

Mr. Romanelli will discuss the history and current life of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. He is a lifelong Muskegon resident and is from the Thunder clan of Ottawa Indians. In 2007, he was elected as the Tribal Ogema, Chairman, and Chief of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians in Manistee Michigan. Mr. Romanelli was re-elected to a second term of office in 2011 and an unprecedented third term of office in 2015. Along with his tribal work, he is a successful businessman and owner of three businesses in West Michigan.

Honoring Native Heritage Pow-Wow at Michigan's Heritage Park

Saturday, July 15 and Sunday, July 16

Saturday, 10:00 am - 8:00 pm and Sunday 10:00 am-4:00 pm: **Michigan's Heritage Park, Whitehall, MI**

A traditional outdoor Pow-Wow at Michigan's Heritage Park will offer park visitors the opportunities to see traditional dancers, fancy shawl dancers, jingle dress dancers, and grass dancers. Native drummers and singers will perform throughout the weekend. Over a dozen trade booths will offer jewelry, handmade crafts, and bead work. Traditional Native food will be available for purchase including fry bread and soups. Sponsored by Lakeshore Museum Center. For more information, visit www.lakeshoremuseum.org or call [231-894-0342](tel:231-894-0342).

Theatre Presentation

***The Rememberer* by Steven Dietz**

July 27 & 29 at 7:30 pm, July 28 at 3:00 pm

Howmet Playhouse, Whitehall

The Rememberer tells the true story of Joyce Cheeka, a young Squaxin Indian girl, who is forcibly taken from her home and placed in a government-run school in 1911. As the chosen "rememberer" for her tribe, an honor passed down to her from her grandfather, Mud Bay Sam, it is Joyce's duty to pass on the stories, history and wisdom of her people. Presented by the White Lake Youth Theater for ages 7 and up.

Special Programming continued...

AUGUST 2017

Standing Rock: A Report from the Field by Levi Rickert

Thursday, August 10

5:30 pm Reception; 7:00 pm Lecture: Muskegon Museum of Art

Levi Rickert, editor of *Native News Online*, a national publication of, by, and for the indigenous peoples of North America, will talk about his recent experiences at the protests at Standing Rock in North Dakota, an ongoing occupation which he calls "the most significant political action by Native Americans since the American Indian Movement's Wounded Knee occupation" on the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota in 1973.

Native Storytelling Super Saturday at the MMA

Saturday, August 12

10:00 am - 3:00 pm: Muskegon Museum of Art

Storytelling has a rich tradition with Native American tribes. We will explore Native stories and how Edward Curtis sought to preserve and capture those traditions in his images and audio recordings.

A Taste of History: Celebrations at Michigan's Heritage Park

Saturday, August 12

10:00 am - 4:00 pm: Michigan's Heritage Park

A Taste of History: Celebrations will include cooking demonstrations and tastings based on different celebrations and holidays. Jessica Diemer-Eaton will demonstrate traditional Native American food preparation and discuss nutrition and food securing practices in the Wigwam Village. This event is hosted by the Lakeshore Museum Center at Michigan's Heritage Park in Whitehall MI. For more information, visit www.lakeshoremuseum.org or call [231-894-0342](tel:231-894-0342).

PRINT IT!

Printing Techniques and Hands-on Demonstration

Sunday, August 13 & 27

Hands-on workshop: 10:00 am and 2:00 pm [See description under June 11]: Muskegon Heritage Museum

Drumming Performance at Muskegon's Bright Lights Festival

Saturday, August 19, 2:00 pm: Muskegon South Pierhead Light

Film Screening & Lecture

Coming to Light with Anne Makepeace

Thursday, August 24

5:30 pm Reception; 7:00 pm Film Screening & Lecture: Muskegon Museum of Art

Screening of *Coming to Light: Edward S. Curtis and The North America Indians*, followed by Q & A with Anne Makepeace, the film's writer, director, and producer. *Coming to Light* was an Academy Award finalist for best feature documentary in 2001. Other awards for this film include Best Film, the American Historical Association; Award of Excellence, American Anthropological Association; and Best Documentary, Telluride Mountainfilm 2000.

SEPTEMBER 2017

Community Day – Labor Day

Monday, September 4

11:00 am - 5:00 pm: Muskegon Museum of Art

Free admission for Muskegon County residents

LECTURE

Footprints with Wallace Ewing

Thursday, September 7

5:30 pm Reception; 7:00 pm Lecture: Muskegon Museum of Art

West Michigan historian and author Wallace Ewing will discuss the Indians whose presence shaped the history of Western Michigan and of whom he wrote *Footprints*—his recent book. He will share the stories of individual Native Americans who once walked the Grand River Valley, Lake Michigan's wooded dunes, and the land between.

Last day for Edward S. Curtis: *The North American Indian*: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 10:00am-5:00pm

Special Programming continued...

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

Brown Bag Films

2nd and 4th Thursdays, May 19 – September 7

12:15 pm Dates: May 19 and 26, June 8 and 22, July 13 and 27, August 10 and 24, September 7

MAJOR CULTURAL PARTNERS

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

Lakeshore Art Festival

Lakeshore Museum Center and Michigan's Heritage Park

VisitMuskegon.org

ADDITIONAL ART AND CULTURAL PARTNERS

Frauenthal Center

Friends of Art-MMA

Hackley Public Library

Howmet Playhouse-Whitehall

Loutit District Library

Muskegon Area District Library

Muskegon Heritage Museum

Muskegon South Pierhead Light

Spring Lake District Library

The Book Nook and Java Shop

USS LST 393 Veterans Museum

USS Silversides Submarine Museum

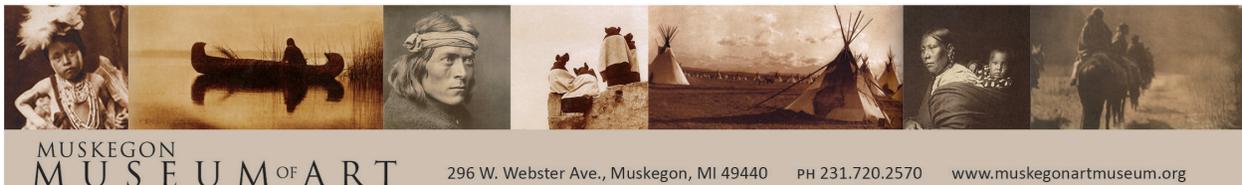
White Lake Community Library

GENEROUS SUPPORT FOR THE MUSKEGON MUSEUM OF ART'S PRESENTATION

EDWARD S. CURTIS: THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN has been provided by

Patrick O'Leary, Hines Corporation, Nichols, the Hilt Foundation, Dr. Fred and Deborah Brown, the Community Foundation for Muskegon County, Hooker DeJong, Inc., Jan and Chris Deur, Arconic Foundation/Whitehall Operations, Frank and Susan Bednarek Fund of the Community Foundation for Muskegon County, Jon and Jane Blyth, Paul C. Johnson Foundation, Deborah DeVoursney, Rehmann, Orville and Susan Crain, Chemical Bank, Verplank Donor Advised Fund of the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation, the John Max Busard and Elizabeth Busard Fund in Memory of Dr. and Mrs. R.I. Busard, an Anonymous Fund and the Mark and Rosemary Lambert's Dream Fund of the Community Foundation for Muskegon County, Allen and Anne Dake, Sytsema Funeral and Cremation Services, Dr. Don and Nancy Crandall, Salute Muskegon, and Eugene and Karen Fethke. Additional support is provided by the Muskegon Area Convention and Visitors' Bureau, FineLine Creative Inc., and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Media Contact: Marguerite Curran, mcurran@mpsk12.net, tel 231.720.2574



EDWARD S. CURTIS THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN

MAY 11 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

Exhibition and Event Underwriters

Edward S. Curtis: The North American Indian is underwritten Patrick O'Leary, Hines Corp., Hilt Foundation, Nichols, Dr. Fred & Deborah Brown, Community Foundation for Muskegon County, Hooker DeJong, Inc., Jan & Chris Deur, Arconic Foundation, Frank & Susan Bednarek, Paul C. Johnson Foundation, Jon & Jane Blyth, Deborah DeVoursney, Orville & Susan Crain, Rehmann, Chemical Bank, The Verplank Donor Advised Fund of the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, The John Max Busard & Elizabeth Busard Fund in Memory of Dr. & Mrs. R.I. Busard of the Community Foundation for Muskegon County, Dr. Don & Nancy Crandall, Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services, Allen & Anne Dake, Anonymous Fund of the Community Foundation for Muskegon County, Salute Muskegon, Eugene & Karen Fethke, and The Mark & Rosemary Lambert's Dream Fund of the Community Foundation for Muskegon County. Additional support has been provided by FineLine Creative, Inc. and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs with the National Endowment for the Arts.



Major Cultural Partners

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians



Lakeshore Museum Center



VisitMuskegon.org



Lakeshore Art Festival



Additional Cultural Partners

Frauenthal Center
Friends of Art—Muskegon Museum of Art
Hackley Public Library
Howmet Playhouse—Whitehall
Loutit District Library/Grand Haven
Muskegon Area District Library
Muskegon Heritage Museum
Muskegon South Pierhead Light
Spring Lake District Library
The Book Nook and Java Shop
USS LST 393 Veterans' Museum
USS Silversides Submarine Museum
White Lake Community Library



MUSKEGON
MUSEUM OF ART

296 W. Webster Ave., Muskegon, MI 49440

PH 231.720.2570

www.muskegonartmuseum.org

Media Fact Sheet



History

At his death in 1905, lumber baron Charles H. Hackley established, through a bequest to Muskegon Public Schools, the Hackley Picture Fund to purchase “paintings of the best kind” for display in Hackley Library, which was then owned and operated by the School Board. When it became apparent that a true art collection needed a home of its own, the Muskegon Board of Education decided to honor Charles Hackley and his gift by constructing an art gallery. Construction began in 1911 and was completed in 1912, making the Muskegon Museum of Art the first building built in America in a city of 30,000 or less *expressly* to hold art. The news of its opening was reported nationally.

Now

Lumbering, manufacturing, and a maritime culture have shaped Muskegon’s history since its early days of Indian settlement and fur trading ventures. The Muskegon Museum of Art was established through the fortunes of lumber. The Museum separated from the Muskegon Public Schools system as of June 30, 2014, in its 102nd continual year of operation. It is situated in Muskegon County, which had an estimated 2015 census population of 172,790 people. Muskegon County median household income (in 2015 dollars), 2011-2015 was \$42,829. Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2015 dollars), 2011-2015 was \$21,291. <http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/INC110215/26121>

Mission

The Muskegon Museum of Art, founded on a tradition of aesthetic excellence, is committed to fostering the life-long study and appreciation of the visual arts by strengthening, preserving, and exhibiting its collections; offering a wide range of traditional and contemporary exhibitions; stimulating learning and creativity through diverse public and educational programming; and enhancing community involvement and support in a safe, accessible, and welcoming environment.

Services and Programs

The Muskegon Museum of Art provides West Michigan access to a world-class collection of visual art - paintings, prints, sculpture and glass—enhanced by a wide range of temporary exhibitions. Educational programs include films, classes, family programs, lectures, hands-on activities, and guided tours to provide a context for interpretation of the collection and temporary exhibitions to make the Museum and its art accessible to diverse audiences. Books and unique gift items may be purchased in the Museum Gift Store.

The museum regularly loans masterworks from its collection to museums across the U.S. and other countries for inclusion in special exhibitions.

Constituents

Local and regional residents, as well as national and international tourists visit the Muskegon Museum of Art to experience the museum’s collections, exhibitions and programs. The Museum is located in Muskegon County and is adjacent to the surrounding counties of Kent, Ottawa, Oceana, Allegan, and Newaygo. Nearly 30,000 visitors visit the Muskegon Museum of Art each year.

Continued...

Accreditation

The Muskegon Museum of Art has been continuously accredited by the American Association of Museums since 1989.

Collaborative Programs

The museum's collaborative efforts are on-going and have included shared projects with Michigan museums, schools, and other cultural organizations. Collaborative programming for *Edward S. Curtis: The North American Indian* has been organized with the following institutions:

Major Cultural Partners

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
Lakeshore Museum Center and
Michigan's Heritage Park
VisitMuskegon.org.

Additional Art and Cultural Partners

Frauenthal Center
Friends of Art—Muskegon Museum of Art
Hackley Public Library
Howmet Playhouse—Whitehall
Loutit District Library/Grand Haven
Muskegon Area District Library
Muskegon Heritage Museum
Muskegon South Pierhead Light
Spring Lake District Library
USS LST 393 Veterans' Museum
USS Silversides Submarine Museum
White Lake Community Library

Affiliations

The Muskegon Museum of Art is a current member of the following:

American Alliance of Museums	Museum Store Association, Inc
American Craft Council	Lakeshore Area Chamber of Commerce
Association of Midwest Museums	Rotary Club of Muskegon
Historical Society of Michigan	National Art Education Association
Michigan Association of Community Arts Agencies	Upper Midwest Conservation Association
Michigan Museums Association	West Michigan Tourist Association

Visitor Information

The Muskegon Museum of Art is located at 296 W. Webster Ave. in downtown Muskegon. Call 231-720-2570 or visit www.muskegonartmuseum.org for information. Parking in the Museum's two lots and on surrounding streets is free.

May 11 through September 10, 2017

Edward S. Curtis: The North American Indian

Exhibition Tickets

Adults: \$10/Children 16 & under: Free/Muskegon Museum of Art Members: Free
Group Rates (20 people or more): \$8 per person. Call 231.720.2571 or email khepler@msp12.net to make group purchases and arrangements.

Museum Gallery & Store Hours

SUNDAY noon-5pm
MONDAY–SATURDAY 10am-5pm
THURSDAY 10am-8pm
Museum Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 8am-5pm.