

Clark Dunbar

# The PowWow Portrait Project

## A Fine Art Series



## Clark Dunbar - The PowWow Portrait Project - A Fine Art Series

The PowWow Portrait Project is a celebration of the culture and personalities of Native American/ Indigenous Peoples of all ages from the youth to the elders in traditional regalia. The portraits are photographed on location at PowWows across Montana in a mini-studio with formal, classic style lighting. Each subject carries their character, history, family, traditions, pride and cultural heritage. The PowWow is both the celebration and the continuance and teaching of the traditions to the next generation.

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The Project is looking to the future, planning several years of portrait photography. In order to expand the number of events attended, broaden the range of people represented, and exhibit and publish the finished photographs.

### **Portrait Partners are needed.**

\* **Funding Partners - Sponsors**, patrons, and grants (via corporation, organization or individual) are sought. Funds would assist with travel, production and post-production expenses.

\* **Exhibit Partners** - The Project is seeking art galleries, museums, and other opportunities and venues in Montana and across the country to exhibit the Portraits.

\* **Publishing Partners** - A 'Coffee-Table' style portfolio book of the Portraits is a major goal. Other publishing opportunities and inquiries are welcome.

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Equipment Used in the Project:

Canon R5 Cameras

Sigma Art Series Lenses

Westcott Strobe Lights

Apple Computers/Adobe Software/Canon Printers

Articles and features about the project with different publications and organizations are online or in progress, including Montana State Universities' Alumni Association, [Professional Photographers of America](#) (their print Magazine), [PetaPixel](#) (online Photo publication), [MyModernMet](#) (online Arts Magazine), [Fotomated](#) (online Photo Publication) and the project was referenced in a [Forbes Magazine](#) article (which links to the 'MyModernMet' article).

The Series will be showing in 2025

[Holter Museum of Art](#), Helena, Montana

The Artists Shop - Gallery, Missoula, Montana

This 2023 summer's sessions are complete. The 2024 sessions planning/scheduling are progressing. The PowWow Portrait Project is on the road for another exciting season.

My portfolio website and basic information/profile is here:

<https://clark-dunbar1.pixpa.com/about> (checkout the PowWow Selects Gallery)

The PowWow Portrait Project' Facebook webpage:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61550616730837>

The PowWow Portrait Project's Crowd Funding Site (prints, calendars, donations, subscriptions):

<https://ko-fi.com/clarkdunbar/>









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**Here's a couple of quotes from postings I've done on Facebook over the summer:**

*"Clark, what a wonderful legacy you have created in this project for yourself, your beautiful models and the indigenous culture at large. Truly a way to preserve these incredible people in a most timeless way. It has been an honor to see these captivating images, and I thank you for sharing them. Wishing you the best, Sir, in getting your sponsor and a venue. I hope you find a permanent exhibit. You and your models so deserve it!"*

*"I can't help other than saying again how beautiful they all were and thank you. I know I wouldn't have gotten to see the beautiful people had you not done this project!"*

*"Continued best wishes to you in portraying Native Americans in the best way possible. Having an art show in Montana would be wonderful. Sure hope you can find a financial sponsor(s)."*

*"Really enjoyed the portraits and native dress hope you publish a book or something. Have an exhibition at a native American museum."*

*"Good luck on getting a show together. It's been a long time since I have seen photos that capture the person as well as the image. Your passion for it made them great."*

*"The beautiful portraits just keep rolling in. Your work is fabulous. Can't wait to see the book it ultimately becomes. My coffee table needs it."*

*"Your Native American portraits are the best I've ever seen."*

*"You are in danger of becoming the Edward Curtis of our era."*

*"I have such great respect for this current project. You have created images that will live for eons and create a legacy both for yourself and the indigenous people of this land."*

*"You have really hit the jackpot with this subject matter. It is like you are making ART from ART. The regalia is simply amazing and would likely BE the point of your photos, were it not for the wonderful features and expressions of the subjects themselves. Seeing your work a few shots at a time is powerful as is. But to see the whole collection in an exhibition will take things to another whole level. And lest I short things, the people really shine as proud and noble."*

*"I am crying with joy over this collection!!"*

*"How magnificent would this be as a art museum showcase installation!"*

*"These just give me goosebumps"*

*"Such authentic captures of beautiful Native Americans. So nice to see their heritage being preserved for others to enjoy."*



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## **Industry Professionals - Quotes from the Introduction to the Images/Series**

*"Extraordinary, Clark. And I don't use that word lightly. The portraits are not only beautiful but very intimate. Each subject's personality comes through. Having seen a lot of images of indigenous people, even in their ceremonial dress, these show a narrative that's surprising. It's almost as if you've shot video. I can imagine a show with very large prints, and of course, a large book would be nice. Well done, sir.  
(HT - Publication & Book Designer)*

*"Your portraits are incredibly soulful. I love the range of energy." (MJ - Printer)*

*"Beautiful work Clark! What a fantastic project. Always a pleasure to see your craftsmanship at work.." (JP - Documentary Filmmaker)*

*"What incredible results! You really know how to get the best from these wonderful portraits.." (SB - SoftwareManager & Entrepreneur)*

*"I want to introduce you to Clark Dunbar. He is a master photographer here in Montana, and has been photographing stunning portraiture of Montana Native Americans. Clarks portraits would be a beautiful gallery to display, and could have some meaningful and significant Native American connections locally. They remind me of an Edward S. Curtis series in color!" (LD - Designer)*

*"These are awesome, Clark! Will you be having an exhibit?" (KR - Film Producer)*

*"Absolutely love these images! I can see them as big fine art prints." (JG - Photographer)*

*"I love the portraits that you shared. They are absolutely stunning." (JM - Writer & Project Manager)*

*"So, I am going to say that you need to give honor to these. Clark, you need to share this work, it is important, it is striking and it is timely. These are so good. The world needs to see these! Seriously, they are that good!" (JCL - Photographer/Product Manager}*

*"Gorgeous!!! :-), They really are lovely and it sounds like you've hit your stride artistically....again!" (CB - Designer/Marketing Exec.)*

*"...everyone sees the beauty, artistry, and magnificence in your portraits. There is much more to uncover...!! An amazing project to not only create great fine-art - but a show and book - you're creating an important body of work here." (BD - Photographer/Cinematographer/Explorer)*

*"HOLY COW! These are Astounding" (LN - Documentary Film maker & Educator)*



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The PowWow Portrait Project - A Fine Art Series (2023)

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Clark Dunbar

Advertising/commercial photographer & cinematographer for over 50 years,  
from film to pixels - now based in North Western Montana.

Featured Work:

Steve Jobs Archive - Permanent Collection

Disney's EPCOT Center - Opening Photo Exhibit 1982

RED Collective #6 (RED Digital Cinema Camera Company)

Client List over the decades:

Apple, Atari, Wells Fargo, Hewlett-Packard, Volvo, Mattel, Hasbro, Intel, Motorola,  
Fairchild Semiconductor, Syntex, Logitech, Harris/Farion, Articulate Systems,  
Diasonics, Burroughs, Amdahl, Tandem, 3Com, Simpson StrongTie,  
Levi, NEC, Memorex, Stanford University, Denver Museum Nature/Science,  
Omni Magazine, Lochkeed, Hansgrohe, Kallista/Kohler, Seagate Technology,  
Southern Pacific Communications, Northern Telecom, PBS Nature,  
BBC Natural History, NatGeo, Samsung, Toshiba, Hitachi,  
Vizio, Disney Nature, Radical Media  
and many, many more....