



**Edward Curtis: 150 Masterpieces from *The North American Indian*
Opens May 24, 2018 at the Muskegon Museum of Art**

Muskegon, MI—Marking the 150th Anniversary of the birth of renowned photographer Edward Curtis, the Muskegon Museum of Art will exhibit 150 photogravures from *The North American Indian*, Curtis's monumental project comprised of 20 volumes of text and over 700 large portfolio prints that sought to catalogue the Native American tribes of the Western United States. **The public is invited to a free reception on the opening evening of the exhibition,**

Thursday, May 24 from 5:30 to 8:00 pm.

Created over a span of decades, the project was unique for its time, and was a passion that ultimately cost Curtis his health, livelihood, and family. But the enduring legacy of *The North American Indian* remains, a record of the humanity and strength of Native Americans, at a time when their way of life was under constant threat.

The Muskegon Museum of Art featured the entire collection of *The North American Indian* over the summer of 2017 in a multi-gallery exhibition that attracted visitors from around the world. The exhibition was both a celebration of Curtis's achievement and an examination of the dual nature of its legacy, of the preservation of knowledge and culture, and the harmful perpetuations of stereotypes and prejudices that continue to affect the social and political landscape in our country today.

The 150th Anniversary of Edward Curtis: 150 Masterpieces from The North American Indian brings to view 150 photographs that represent the breadth of subjects touched on in last year's presentation. The 2018 exhibition also examines some of the criticism of Curtis's works, using the photos to present the dilemmas that are part of an understanding of the project's legacy. The show will also feature the premiere of newly acquired copper plates used in the creation of the photogravures, and several of the volumes.

The 150th Anniversary of Edward Curtis: 150 Masterpieces from The North American Indian runs May 24 through September 9, 2018 at the Muskegon Museum of Art.

RELATED PROGRAMS

The Burden of Representation: Lecture by Ben Mitchell

Thursday, June 21

5:30 pm Reception, 7:00 pm Lecture

Edward S. Curtis's *The North American Indian* is indisputably an invaluable record of many aspects of early 20th century Native American culture. But important questions about his work and methods persist. Employing the voices and observations of both Native and non-Native artists and scholars, this program offers an overview of the significant and enduring critiques of *The North American Indian*, both as art and as ethnography. Event is admission is free and open to the public.

~ More ~

Screening of *Rumble: Indians that Rocked the World*

Thursday, July 19, 7:00 pm

(103 minutes running time) *Rumble* tells the story of the missing chapter in the history of American music: the Indigenous influence. The film features music icons Charley Patton, Mildred Bailey, Link Wray, Buffy Sainte-Marie, Jimi Hendrix, Jesse Ed Davis, and many more. Film admission is free and open to the public.

The exhibition is underwritten by Nichols, Fifth Third Bank, Northern Machine Tool, the Verplank Donor Advised Fund of the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, and Deborah Devoursney. Media sponsor is WGVU Public Media. Program support is provided by the Michigan Council for Arts and Humanities, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Muskegon Museum of Art is located at 296 W. Webster Ave., in downtown Muskegon, Michigan.

www.muskegonartmuseum.org.

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IMAGE CAPTIONS: *Higher-resolution images available upon request or in our website Media Room at <http://www.muskegonartmuseum.org/media-room/images/edward-curtis-150th-anniversary-150-masterpieces/>*



Edward Sheriff Curtis
Self Portrait
Copyright 1889, printed 1907
Collection of the Muskegon
Museum of Art, Hackley Picture
Fund Purchase, 1983.5



Edward Sheriff Curtis
Inashah - Yakima
copyright 1910, published 1911
Volume 7 Portfolio, Plate 220



Edward Sheriff Curtis
Princess Angeline
copyright 1899, published 1913
Volume 9 Portfolio, Plate 314



Edward Sheriff Curtis
Luzi - Papago
copyright 1907, published 1908
Volume 2 Portfolio, Plate 53



Edward Sheriff Curtis
Chief Joseph - Nez Perce
copyright 1909, published 1911
Volume 8 Portfolio, Plate 256



Edward Sheriff Curtis
Wife of Modoc Henry - Klamath
copyright 1923, published 1924
Volume 13 Portfolio, Plate 445