

## **GAVINO LIMON**

Six year old Gavino Limon is Oneida and Ojibwe and has been immersed in the Native American Culture since birth, participating in art shows, Powwows, and the Drum & Dance Program. His Oneida name is tewa'tahko'te? (day-wah-dah-go-day), which means Moccasins are standing up. His Ojibwe name is Miikinaak, which means turtle. He loves to talk, sing, drum and dance. He made the quill box on display when he was five.

## **MELVIN LOSH**

Melvin Losh is an Ojibwe Master Quillworker, and has been an artist for over 35 years. Intricate and polished, his quill boxes and bandolier bags feature eagle, beaver, wolf, floral and abstract designs. He makes burial moccasins, quill boxes, and other ceremonial items for his community when asked. He has participated in conferences on quill boxes and black ash baskets in East Lansing, Michigan. The Minnesota Historical Society's Mille Lacs Museum and private collectors have bought his bandolier bags and the Plains Art Museum and the Smithsonian own his quill boxes. He recently won "Best of Show" at the Bemidji State University annual Art Expo. Museums and private collectors around the world seek his work.

### **THE GALLERY**

The purpose of the Stillwater Public Library Gallery is to provide education through exhibits and displays; to increase community involvement in the library; and to provide an enjoyable environment for the library's users.

For more information about the gallery,  
contact Lynne Bertalmio, Director,  
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224 Third St. N.  
Stillwater, MN 55082  
651.275.4338  
[www.stillwaterlibrary.org](http://www.stillwaterlibrary.org)

*In coordination with "The Big Read,"  
the Stillwater Public Library Gallery presents . . .*



**DOUGLAS LIMON, RACHEL LIMON,  
GAVINO LIMON, MELVIN LOSH**

**&**

**TOM LINDFORS**



**Stillwater Public Library Gallery  
224 Third Street North  
Stillwater, MN  
March-April**

**Artist Reception—April 9, 6-8pm**

## TOM LINDFORS

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I use photography to explore the importance of community and the ways that people with different ideas, histories, and cultures learn to live together. I look for stories that demonstrate this. I believe that by practicing respect, employing education and embracing diversity, communities can not only unite but flourish. From Mexican American families working in the sugar beet fields of the Red River Valley to the tradition of the American Indian Powwow, I believe how we embrace diversity will define the future of our American Experience.

I began photographing Native American dancers at powwows over 20 years ago. What began as a mission to master black and white photography evolved into a life-long education about an ancient people's journey to be recognized as sovereign nations. Such an education is not possible without teachers and friends in this culture who patiently helped me see what I could not.

Nine years ago, I moved to Star Prairie, WI, having spent 28 years building my photography business in Chicago. My photographs of Native Americans performing at powwows have been exhibited at museums and galleries around the world and belong to a number of private collections, including the permanent archives of the International Polaroid Collection.

I would like to thank all of the people who have sat for me over the years. Most importantly, I thank my wife Valerie for her support and understanding. Pursuing personal vision is rarely profitable but it is the essence of expression and central to the enduring spirit of creativity.

### ABOUT THE IMAGERY

As part of The Big Read Project, Library Director Lynne Bertalmio asked if I would consider exhibiting my collection of Native Americans portraits from powwows which the library had exhibited back in 2012. The powwow images have been received respectfully by Native Americans but do not begin to tell the whole story. The focus on Louise Erdrich's novel *Love Medicine* presented a great opportunity to introduce new imagery. I asked Lynne if she would be open to commissioning a new series of portraits of contemporary Native Americans who play important roles in the Twin Cities and St. Croix Valley community.

*Everyday Brave* features a compilation of portraits of contemporary Native Americans at powwows and in other walks of life. Despite the traditional outfits of those photographed at powwows, it is important to remember these people are choosing to honor their culture in a traditional way, part of a living, flourishing culture, not one preserved in movies and textbooks.

I wanted these new portraits to feature teachers, artists, social workers, spiritual leaders, healers, men and women, young and old, who are doing good work out of the spotlight but whose stories and endeavors would benefit from this opportunity. These individuals demonstrate-by the way they live their daily

lives-how to embrace, exercise and share a rich cultural heritage to benefit of the greater community, often in the face of daily adversity. They are forward thinking individuals who set an example by their choices, expectations and shared wisdom and principles. They are everyday brave.

This collection of images employs traditional as well as new digital photographic processes. My early black and white portraits documenting dancers during powwows were created in the field using Polaroid film and a 4x5 view camera emulating the work of historic photographers like Edward Curtis and De Lancey Gill. To provide visual continuity and to honor the photographic tradition in which those initial portraits were conceived, I chose to again use film and a view camera to make these new portraits. I then scanned the negatives to take advantage of all of the digital tools at my disposal.

My sincere thanks go out to all the people who helped make this exhibit possible, in particular to Lynne and the Library Foundation for their support.

## DOUGLAS LIMON

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Douglas Limon is an enrolled member of the Oneida Nation and a descendant of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. He is passionate about his Native American culture and specifically his beadwork, creating authentic Native American art for over fifty years. He is a cofounder and former chairman of the Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce (MAICC), established in 1986 to expand the economic opportunities for American Indian entrepreneurs. In 2012, he received the Minnie Jackson Lifetime Achievement Award from the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture and Lifeways for demonstrating a lifetime of traditional art perpetuation. Most recently The First Peoples Fund has recognized him with the 2014 Jennifer Easton Community Spirit Award.

## RACHEL LIMON

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Rachel Limon is an award winning artist using a multitude of mediums to express her inner creativity such as clay, photography, jewelry, watercolor and sumi-e painting. Many of her pieces are functional with the hope that nature and art can be enjoyed and cherished every day. Her artwork has been shown in numerous galleries, juried art shows, and solo exhibitions-including one at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts-and has won several award ribbons at the Minnesota State Fair's Creative Activities Exhibition. She is very active in her community in the arts serving on several art boards, a tour guide of the Native Americas Galleries at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, and Art Instructor at the White Bear Lake Center for the Arts.