

# SUSAN REYNOLDS PHOTOGRAPHY

REVEALING MYSTERIES

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Who: Sue Reynolds, Photographer  
What: "Understanding Native American People"  
Solo Exhibit -- New Native Celebration Images  
When: April 30, 2009 – July 24, 2009  
Where: Gallery 1055 at 1055 Taylor Street, San Francisco, CA

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## LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER PREMIERS NATIVE AMERICAN CELEBRATIONS EXHIBIT

March 10, Walnut Creek, California – Bringing spiritual roots and social action together, photographer Sue Reynolds premieres her first Native American exhibit at Gallery 1055 at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. Opening April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009, "Understanding Native American People" includes nearly 30 never-before-exhibited images from Indian celebrations across the West, and documents Episcopal ministries reaching native people nationwide.

The fine arts and documentary photographer gives a free slide lecture on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

Reynolds' latest photographic project came about through a confluence of events: studying at the Rocky Mountain School of Photography in Montana, family deaths prompting a new direction, affinity for native values, and dedication to social action through photography.

"Understanding Native American People" is her fifth solo show. "My experiences with Native Americans and their celebrations speak to me at many levels," Reynolds says, "particularly to the sacred -- which I see in all of us -- and to social justice."

Bishop Marc Andrus, the head of the Episcopal Diocese of California, says, "When I first met Sue, it was clear that she sees Native Americans differently than most of us, and continually seeks to deepen her understanding of their diversity."

"The story of our common humanity is told through her beautiful portrayals of native people celebrating at traditional powwows, as well as with Lakotas bringing their ways to the Niobrara Convocation of native Episcopalians in South Dakota. I'm delighted her exhibit is helping people to learn more about the diversity which is all around us."

According to Rick Knepp, former director of the leading photo-arts Weston Gallery in Carmel, California, "Sue's passion creates respect for Native Americans and their culture. This show, through the power and vibrancy of her photographic vision, enables her to create more change by reaching a new audience."

### **Gallery Events Share Artist's Vision**

The Opening Reception for the exhibit takes place on April 30<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8pm.

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, Reynolds will give a free "Understanding Native American People" slide lecture, sharing the back story behind her images and describing powwow etiquette. She also will recommend ways that people can support Native American efforts to attain economic and social parity. Check the Announcements and Events section at [www.diocal.org](http://www.diocal.org) for details.

Copies of Reynolds' recent "Proud People: Nations within a Nation" book will be available for purchase directly from the photographer while the exhibit is up, as will exhibit prints for post-show delivery. Contact [info@susanreynoldsphotography.com](mailto:info@susanreynoldsphotography.com) to order.

The exhibit -- up through July 24<sup>th</sup> -- opening reception, and "Understanding Native American People" lecture are free to the public. See the Gallery web page for hours, directions, and event details, at [www.diocal.org](http://www.diocal.org). To RSVP for the reception email [gallery1055@diocal.org](mailto:gallery1055@diocal.org) after April 1st.

### **Photographer's New Direction: Creating Understanding and Action**

This new show expands Reynolds' mission. For years, her images have brought people close to nature. Now, she's tapping into her spiritual roots and photojournalism skills to make the invisible visible and appreciated.

"Since 2005, when I attended courses in Missoula, Montana and discovered Native powwows, I became aware of ignorance and racism against Native people. In urban areas, Native Americans are invisible. We've lost an essential connection to the first people who made this continent their home. I want to show non-natives that their American Indian neighbors have a right to dignity. We're all fellow humans sharing this earth."

Reynolds' success lies in her ability to powerfully connect viewers with her subjects through her unique, sometimes surprising, vision. The exhibit features a wide variety of images, from powwow drums and whirling dancers to portraits, details of ritual objects, and participants in the 2008 Niobrara Convocation of Lakota on the Cheyenne River Reservation.

Reynolds' work has received increasing attention and excitement since her debut solo show in 2002. In April 2004, she gained her first international recognition with exhibits in art galleries in Yokohama and Tokyo, Japan. Her images are in collections nationwide. Her "On the Powwow Trail" essay and photography appear in the Spring 2008 issue of Tri Valley Magazine.

### **Sue Reynolds Background**

Reynolds has been exhibiting and teaching photography since 2002. She has written articles for national media since 1990. In addition to solo shows in Contra Costa County, Reynolds has exhibited in Japan, and at galleries in the East Bay. She has studied with Rocky Mountain School of Photography in Missoula, Montana. She holds a B.A. in Art History from University of California, Davis, and an M.B.A. from San Francisco State University. The photographer-author of two limited edition books: "Proud People: Nations within a Nation" (2007) and "Revealing Nature's Mysteries" (2006), Reynolds is a fourth-generation Californian, and resides in Walnut Creek. Her photography, teaching and event schedule may be seen at [www.susanreynoldspartography.com](http://www.susanreynoldspartography.com) (site under construction).

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