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Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum

“Mingled Visions: Selections from Edward S. Curtis’s *The North American Indian*” on view at the
Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum

Forty original photogravure prints by noted photographer and naturalist Edward S. Curtis from the collection of the Dubuque Museum of Art in Dubuque, Iowa will be on view at the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum from Feb. 3 through May 20, 2017.

This selection of photogravures presents an overview of Curtis’s *The North American Indian* collection with a popular mix of famous images like “Geronimo” and “Cañon de Chelly – Navaho” and just as iconic but less well-known images like “Bear Bull – Blackfoot” and “Wichita Grass-House”.

Edward S. Curtis was fortunate in 1906 to gain recognition and endorsement from President Theodore Roosevelt and financial backing from John Pierpont Morgan for a project he had been considering for over six years. Curtis approached industrialist Morgan and together they decided Curtis’s masterwork, *The North American Indian*, would be a five-year project producing 20 volumes of ethnographic texts illustrated with high-quality photoengravings and each volume would be accompanied by a folio of large photogravure prints. In the end, the 20 folios included 722 photogravure prints but the project took 30 years to complete.

Curtis published Volume 1 in 1907. Although Curtis had hoped to print a limited edition of 500 copies, he was only able to find 222 subscribers for *The North American Indian* and only 272 sets were ever printed. Mainly due to lack of funds and the constant need for marketing his work, Curtis did not issue his final volume and portfolio set until 1930, almost 20 years after his projected completion date. Thus, his lifework, *The North American Indian*, which neither fit neatly into the classification of art nor science, virtually faded into obscurity. The collection was rediscovered in the 1970s and became recognized as one of the most significant records of Native culture ever produced.

Dubuque’s copy of *The North American Indian* is an original subscription set given to the local Carnegie-Stout Public Library in 1909 by Mrs. Emma H. Ward in memory of her husband, Hiram Pond Ward, a prominent Dubuque and Washington D.C. lawyer. The complete collection remained at the Library until 1999 when the photogravure portion was moved to the Dubuque Museum of Art for safekeeping. The complete collection (texts and photogravures) was purchased by the Dubuque Cultural Preservation Committee in 2008. In 2009, the committee gifted the complete collection to the Museum.

This traveling exhibition is organized by the Dubuque Museum of Art, Dubuque, Iowa. The photogravures in the exhibition are from the permanent collection of the Dubuque Museum of Art and are a gift from the Dubuque Cultural Preservation Committee, an Iowa general partnership, consisting of Dr. Darryl K. Mozena, Jeffrey P. Mozena, Mark Falb, Timothy J. Conlon, and Dr. Randy Lengeling.

An opening reception for members only will be held at the Museum on Friday, Feb. 10 from 5 p.m. – 6 p.m. and for the general public from 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. RSVP your attendance to (989)964-7082.

Hosting this exhibition at the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum is made possible with grant support from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, National Endowment for the Arts, and the Saginaw Community Foundation.

The Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum is located on the campus of Saginaw Valley State University, 7400 Bay Road. Museum hours are Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 12 noon to 5 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call (989) 964-7125 or visit the Museum's website at www.marshallfredericks.org.

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[Editors: Images are available upon request.]