

Woman Warrior Florentina Garnanez

Photographs by Dorothy Grandbois and Tina Garnanez



Photography exhibition about a U. S. Army Veteran and her struggle to overcome Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

Dorothy Grandbois is from the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa in Belcourt, ND and Tina Garnanez is Diné from Shiprock, NM.

***Opens Thursday, November 11, 2010
Closes Sunday, January 9, 2011***

***Indian Pueblo Cultural Center,
South Rotunda***



INDIAN PUEBLO CULTURAL CENTER

2401 12th St. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104
505-843-7270 | IndianPueblo.org



Woman Warrior

Photographs by Dorothy Grandbois & Florentina “Tina” Garnanez

Woman Warrior is a collaborative photography exhibition by two Native American women about a U. S. Army Veteran and her struggle to overcome Post Traumatic Stress Disorder through creating art.

Florentina “Tina” Garnanez (Navajo) is the subject and a photographer in this exhibition along with Dorothy Grandbois (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa). The photos of both women depict the story of Garnanez’ life and her struggle brought about by living in two worlds and how she discovered a way to deal with her post traumatic stress disorder.

The photographs of Dorothy Grandbois shown here depict the story of a modern day “Woman Warrior” named Florentina Garnanez, who was born on the Navajo reservation in Shiprock, New Mexico. While attending school in Farmington, NM, Tina continued to maintain close family ties by going back to the reservation on weekends and during the summer to help her family herd their Churro sheep and Angora goats. This duty was the responsibility of the women in her clan and was shared by Tina’s mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-aunts Mabel, Lilly and Maria. It was during this time the strong Diné women imparted the cultural values that were to provide the foundation for Tina to become the woman she is today.

Tina’s story is about the clash between two cultures and her incredible resilience she developed to live in both worlds. Historically, it was the young Diné men who were the warriors. Today, these gender roles have changed. Diné men are often the herders and ranchers while both Diné men and women join the Army. The contrast between these two worlds became even more vivid when Tina joined the U. S. Army at eighteen. She became a combat medic at the tender age of nineteen, serving both in Kosovo and Iraq. She served in this position for five years.

Tina continues depicting the story of her life and struggle with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder through photography, journaling, drawing, painting and other art forms. She says, “Without art, I would not be able to function in society.” After five years of active duty in the U. S. Army, Tina is pursuing a BFA from the Institute for American Indian Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Her goal is to attain a master’s degree in art therapy to help other veterans heal using the creative process. Also, she would like to publish a book of her photographs in hopes of encouraging other veterans to tell their stories, find ways to heal and achieve their goals. To quote Tina, “I am proud to have served my country and I am proud of my culture and the people I come from. They helped me get through the war and helped me heal. They support me now and by sharing their photographs, it is my way of saying thank you to them.”



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