**JIMMY NELSON**

*My Journey To Unveil Humanity’s Beauty****\****

Throughout my life, I have been driven by an insatiable curiosity and an unwavering passion for exploring the world. As a photographer, my journey has revolved around the subject of my artworks: the Indigenous peoples. Rooted in a deep sense of empathy, my work aims to connect with people from different cultures and inspire others to embrace the beauty of humanity, and recognize that we are all one people.

Initially, I was fascinated by Indigenous cultures as repositories of ancient wisdom, resilience, and profound human experiences. Living with them and immersing myself in their culture, I aimed to develop genuine connections and embrace the essence of their humanity—and better connect with my own. Over time, I realized the power of my work in challenging stereotypes and dispelling misconceptions about Indigenous peoples. By presenting them in a dignified manner, I encourage viewers to reconsider their perceptions and appreciate the richness of cultural diversity. I aim to amplify their voices by sharing their presence and aspirations with wider audiences, empowering them to shape their own narrative and future. From an artistic perspective, I remain captivated by the aesthetics of the Indigenous peoples. Their vibrant attire, intricate craftsmanship, and stunning landscapes provide a rich visual tapestry for me to capture beauty through my lens.

Beauty, a concept deeply ingrained in our human experience, can connect us in profound ways. It transcends societal norms and physical standards, ref lecting cultural values, personal perceptions, and aspirations. The way people move, speak, and interact holds intrinsic beauty. The tender moments of a mother comforting her child, or the graceful movements of a dancer evoke awe and inspiration. The beauty I seek to capture in my pictures goes beyond language barriers and cultural differences, reminding us of our shared humanity.

I firmly believe in the transformative power of beauty. I have witnessed firsthand how recognizing and celebrating beauty can bring about positive change in individuals and communities. When people are empowered to embrace their unique identities and values, they become more confident and fulfilled, leading to a ripple effect of positive change in their lives. My work requires significant investment due to the meticulous process involved. After a long search and much experimentation, I use a large-format 10 x 8 analogue camera in remote fieldwork which allows me to deliver exceptional image quality and resolution. The use of large negative plates facilitates the capture of fine details, rich tones, and a wide angle. The resulting grain, tonal range, and color rendition contribute to a distinct look that aligns with my artistic vision, evoking a sense of nostalgia and timelessness. Working with large analogue cameras necessitates a slow and deliberate approach, enabling me to fully immerse myself in the moment and establish a genuine connection with my subjects. The process of handling film, developing negatives, and creating prints adds a tactile element to the creative process.

Building trust with Indigenous communities is a gradual and ongoing process that demands patience, respect, and a deep understanding of their cultural dynamics, which is essential for the success of my work. I approach these communities with utmost reverence for their customs, ensuring my actions and presence align with their values and beliefs. Taking the time to develop relationships and communicate my intention, I obtain their consent before capturing their images. This trust-building process can often take weeks, leaving only a few days for the actual photography.

I am humbled by the profound impact my work is having on both me and those who engage with my photographs. I aspire to touch the world emotionally and leave a legacy of the beauty of humanity. Together, let us celebrate and preserve the invaluable threads that connect us all, enriching the world with the wisdom and spirit of Indigenous cultures.

Milan, 19 September 2023

**\* From Skira editore catalogue**