

ALERIE EWENIN
uskowekwan Indian Residential School
1965-1971

I was brought up believing in the nature ways, burning
sweetgrass, speaking Cree. And then I went to residential
school and all that was taken away from me. And then
later on, I forgot it, too, and that was even worse."



ANGELA ROSE
Gordon Indian Residential School
1980-1986

"I used to be able to speak my language when I was little. But now, because of residential school, I only know how to say hello and count to ten. I turn on the native radio station and I just like to sit and listen. I can't understand what they're saying, but every once in a while a word will pop out at me and it'll jog some small memory. I've lost a lot of things, but I think that's one of the ones I miss most."



MIKE PINAY

Qu'Appelle Indian Residential School

1953-1963

"It was the worst ten years of my life. I was away from my family from the age of six to 16. How do you learn about family? I didn't know what love was. We weren't even known by names back then. I was a number."

"Do you remember your number?"

"73."



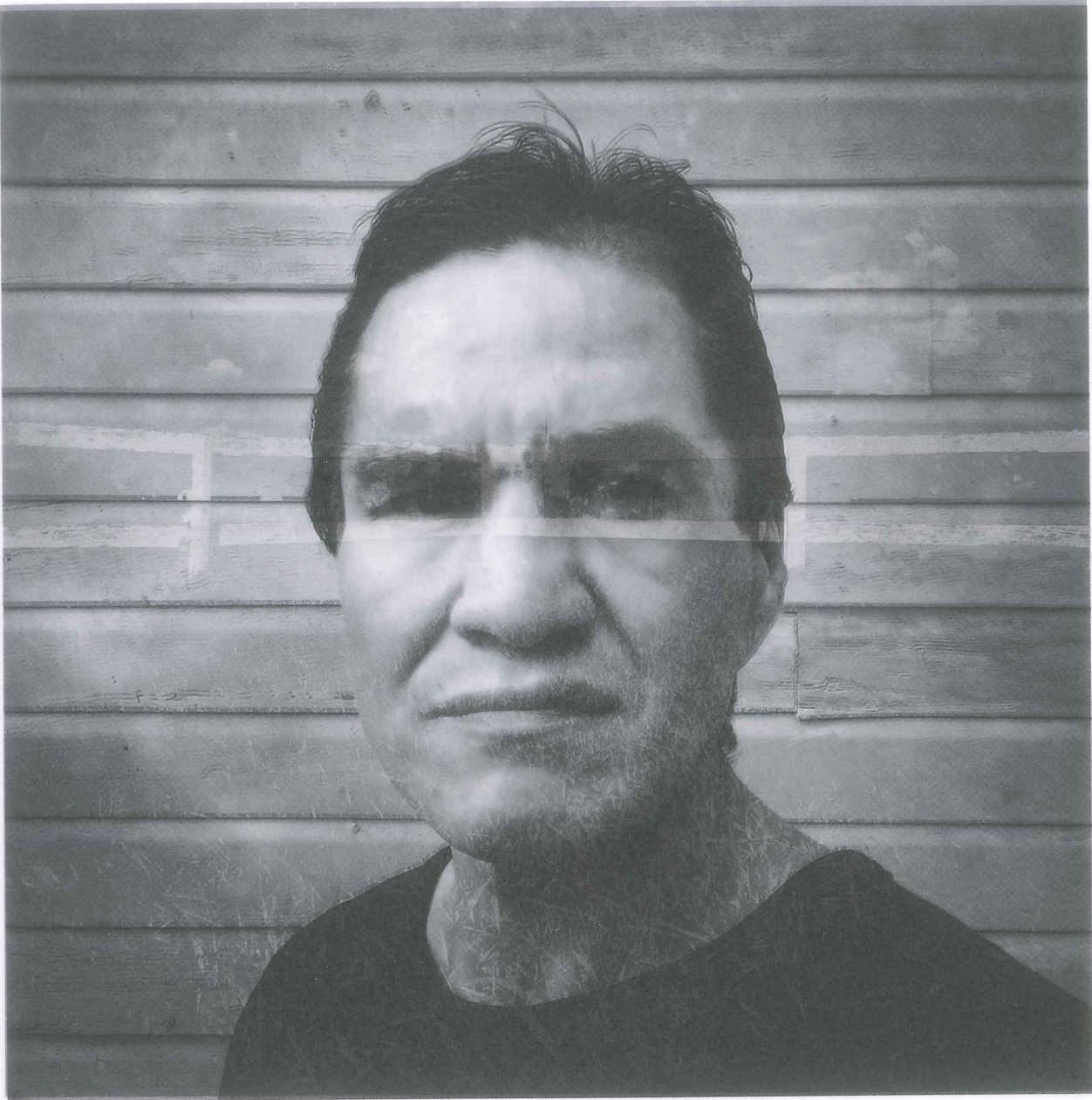
SELINA BRITTAIN
Marieval Indian Residential School
1954-1962

"I believe that they thought they were teaching us.
I believe that they thought that assimilating us
into their way of life would help us. But they
changed us into something we weren't — and there
was nothing wrong with our way of life before.
That's what they still don't understand."



MARCEL ELLERY
Marieval Indian Residential School
1987-1990

"I ran away 27 times. But the RCMP always found us eventually. When I got out, I turned to booze because of the abuse. I drank to suppress what had happened to me, to deal with my anger, to deal with my pain, to forget. Ending up in jail was easy, because I'd already been there."



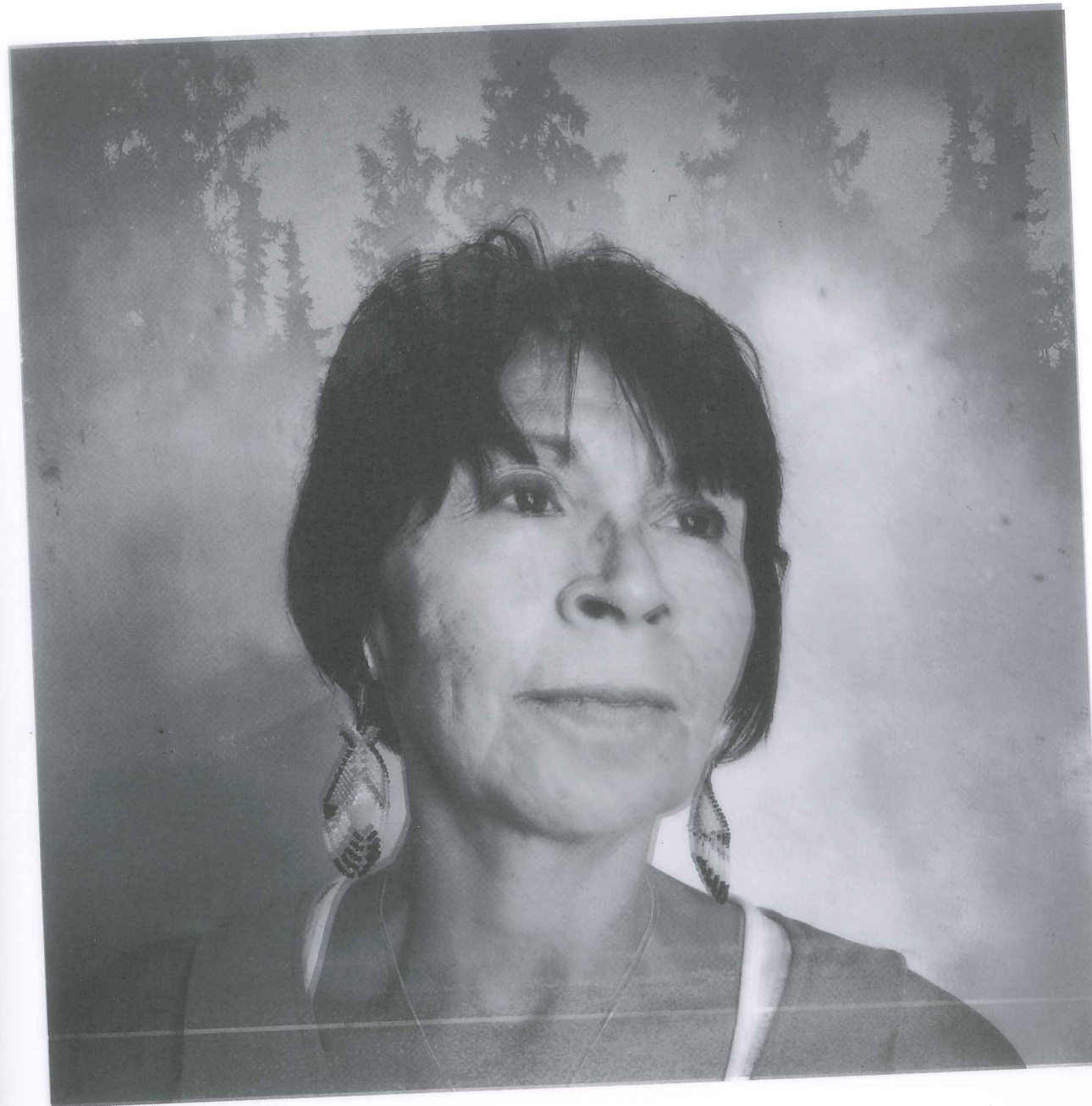
SERAPHINE KAY
Qu'Appelle Indian Residential School
1974-1975

"I was raped at school. He was an old man, the janitor. I didn't tell anyone for decades, because I thought people would judge me. The only person I ever told was my mother [who went to Muskowekwan Residential School]. All she said was, 'That's how I was brought up, too.'"



LEONA LIBERTY
Muskowekwan Indian Residential School
1960-1966

"My mother and her siblings went to school [at Muskowekwan] too. When my mom's sister was seven years old, she was pushed down a flight of stairs by a nun and broke her back. She died instantly. All of the kids were terrified that the same thing would happen to them. My mother didn't tell me her story until 1993, when she was crippled by arthritis and at the end of her life. It finally became clear why she had never been able to care for me — when I was two weeks old, she abandoned me in high grass on our reserve... We all abuse each other this way. It's what we were taught."



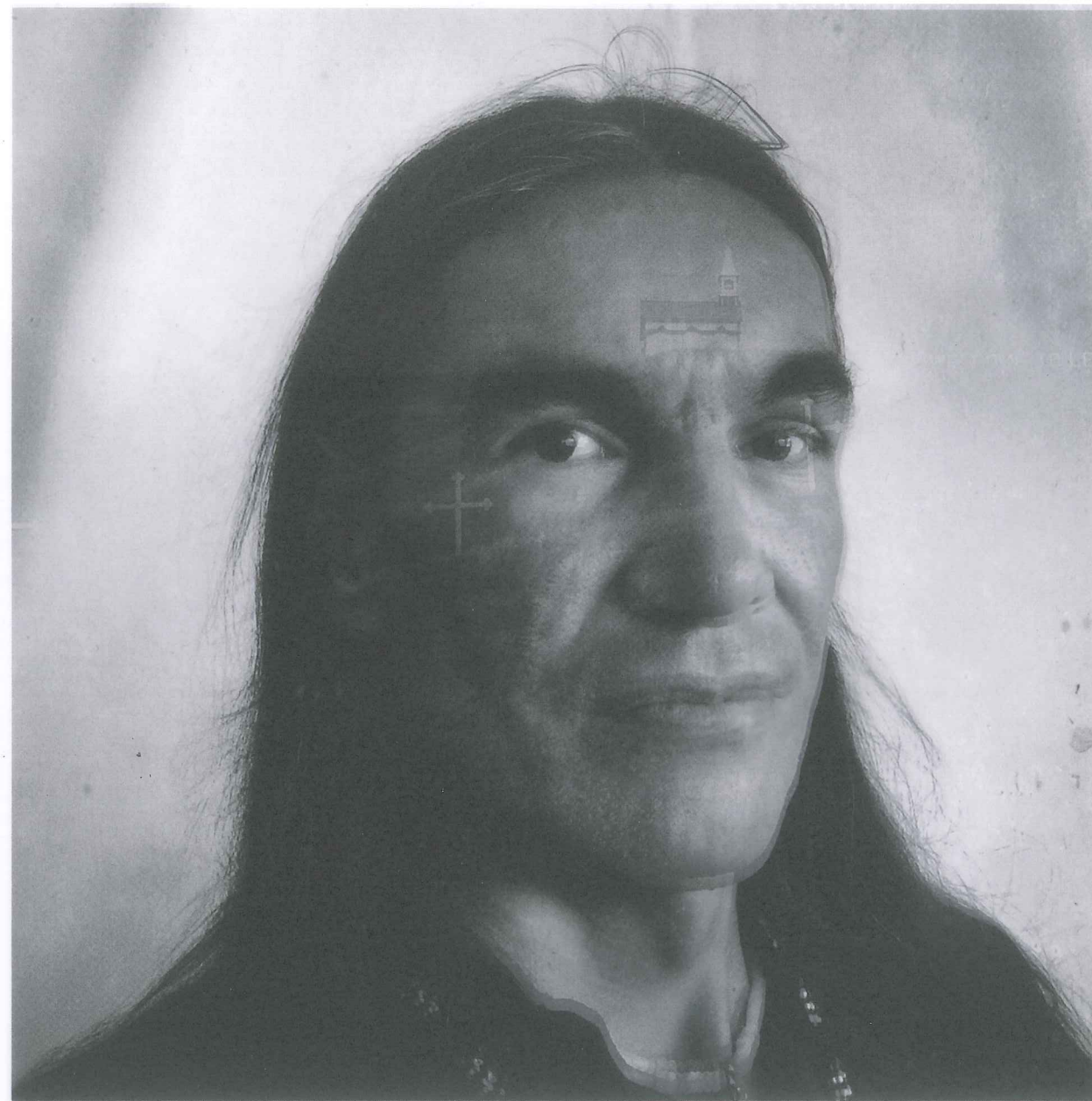
GARY EDWARDS

Ile-a-la-Crosse Indian Residential School (1970-1973)

St. Michael's Indian Residential School (1974-1976)

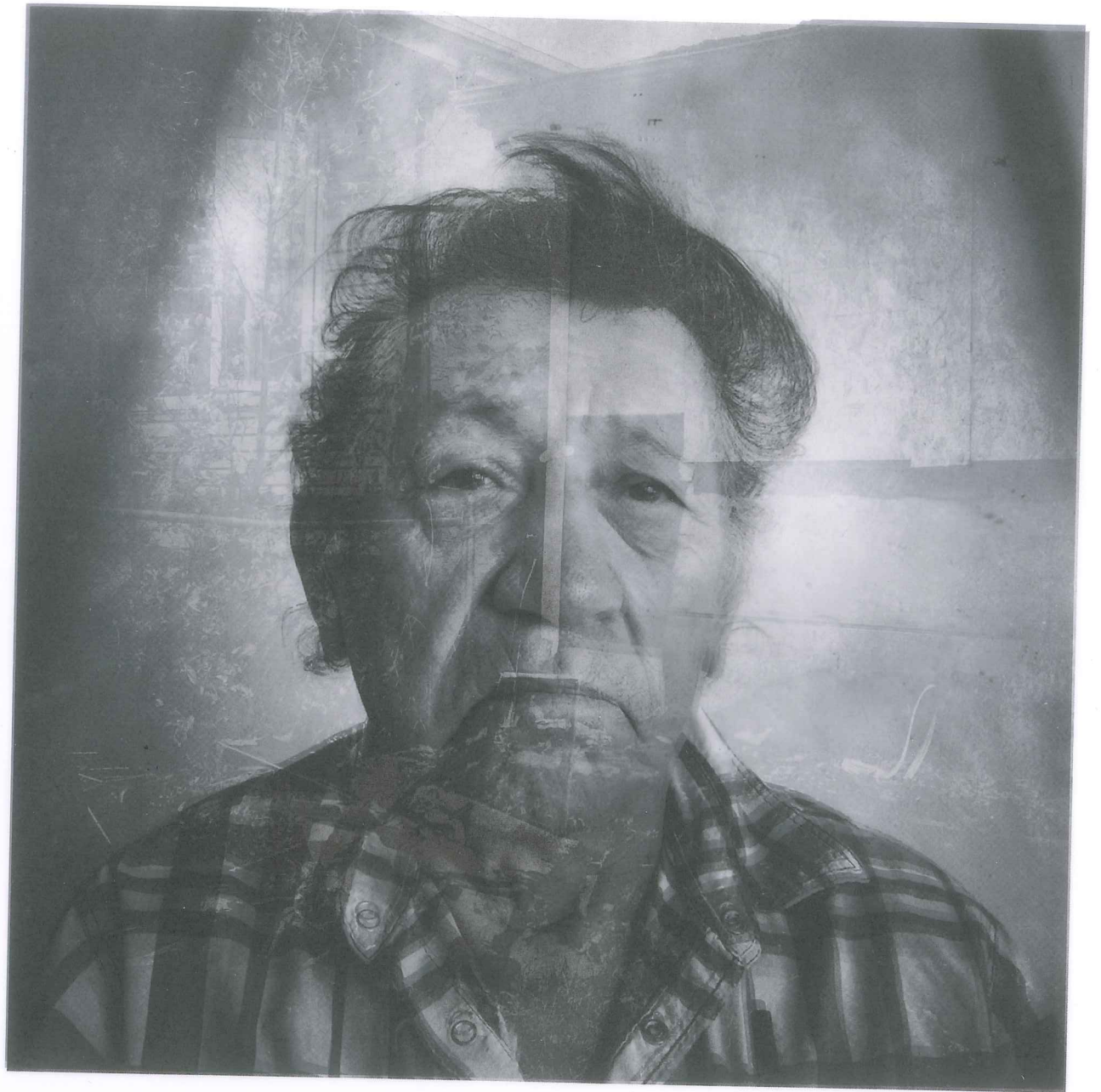
Qu'Appelle Indian Residential School (1976-1978)

"I remember after mass every Monday, the head priest would set a large mason jar on the podium. He and two helpers would lock the church doors, and then put on those 1930s canister gas masks. Then they'd open the mason jars and just watch us. We never knew what was happening, but within a few minutes kids would start vomiting or twitching or foaming at the mouth. Looking back, I don't know, but I think it was mustard gas."



ELWOOD FRIDAY
St. Phillips Indian Residential School
1951-1953

"I've never told anyone what went on there.
It's shameful. I am ashamed. I'll never tell
anyone, and I've done everything to try to forget."



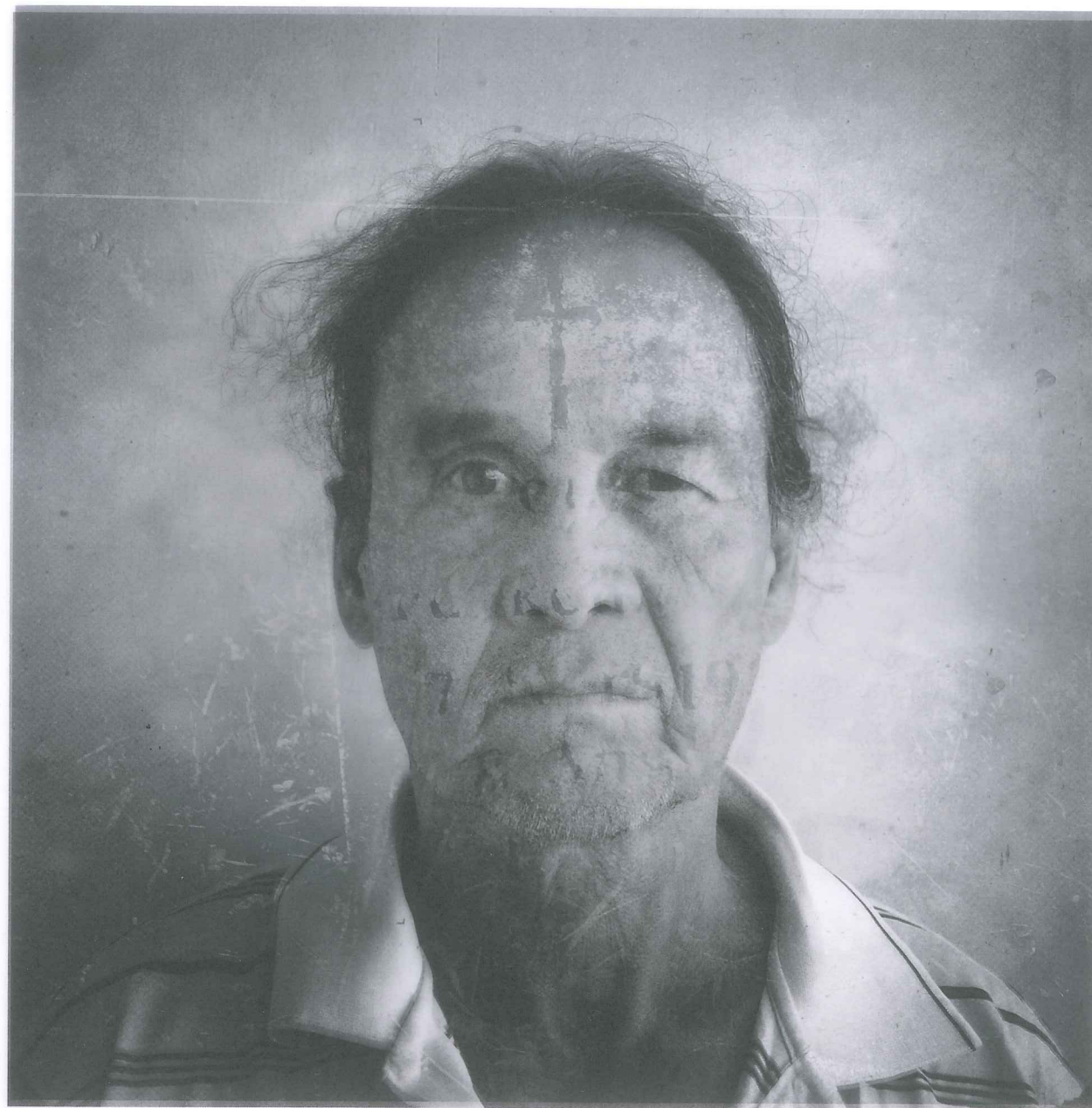
JANET DUFOUR
Marieval Indian Residential School
1952-1960

"A priest molested me because I was ugly and shy and I think he picked the most vulnerable of us. I couldn't tell my parents because I was so ashamed. I only got to see them two months a year for our summer holidays — to this day, I don't like fall because it brings back that ugly feeling, that terror of having to go back... I did Grade 9 and some of Grade 10 and then I ran away. I didn't know who I was — I was ashamed to be native, and I was ashamed to be brown, so I ran to the darkest part of the city where I thought I belonged. We all just want to belong."



RICK PELLETIER
Qu'Appelle Indian Residential School
1965-1966

"My parents came to visit and I told them I was being beaten. My teachers said that I had an active imagination, so they didn't believe me at first. But after summer break they tried to take me back and I cried and cried and cried. I ran away the first night, and when my grandparents went to take me back, I told them I'd keep running away, that I'd walk back to Regina if I had to. They believed me then."

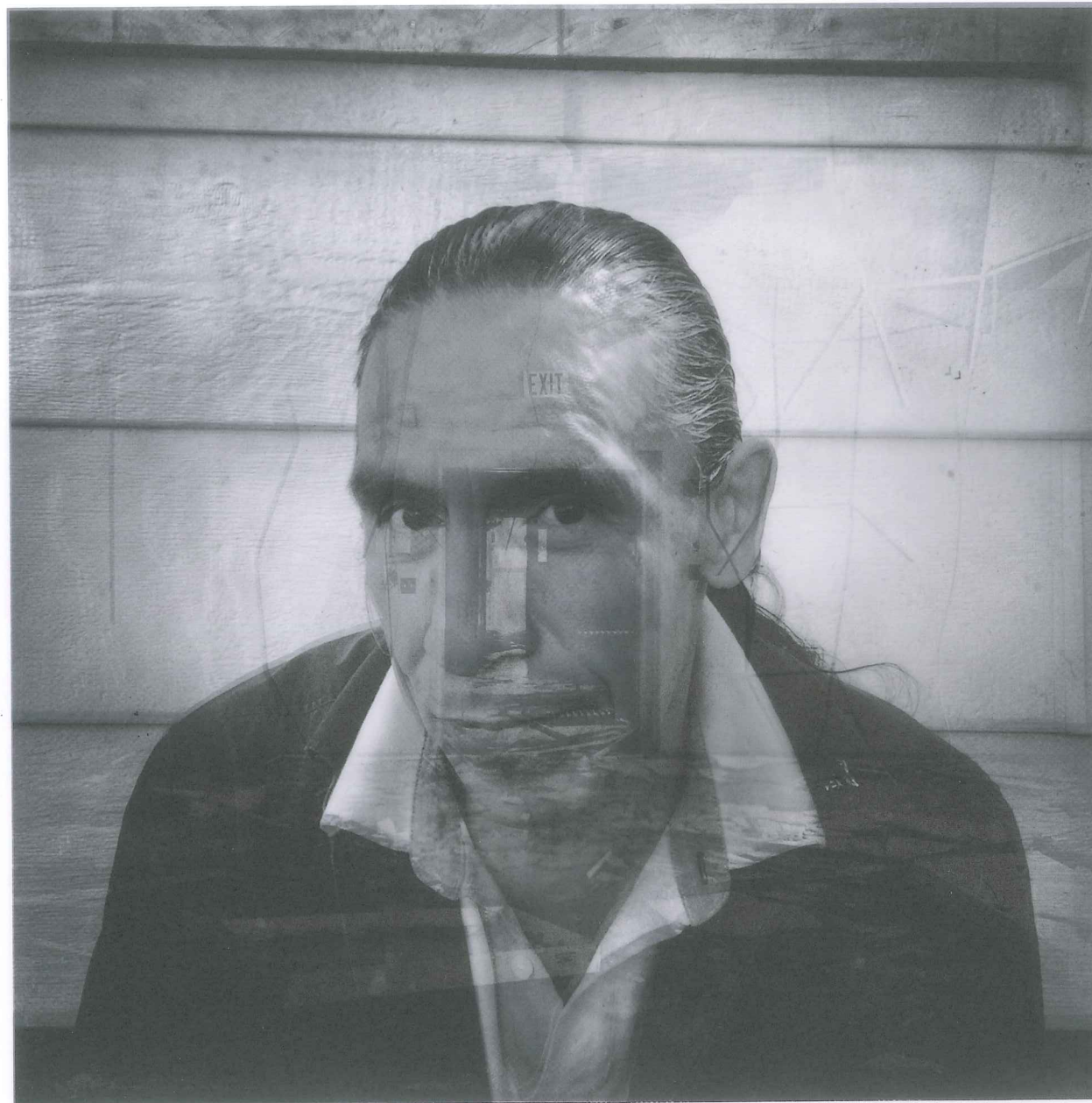


GLEN EWENIN

Gordon Indian Residential School (1970-1973)

Muskowekwan Indian Residential School (1973-1975)

"Residential school affects how you see the world. I can't fit into the public anymore. I don't feel like a normal person... I don't even notice myself teaching my kids to be afraid of authority. But it's made me such a negative person. It changes everything."



AUDREY EYAHASE

St. Michael's Indian Residential School (1963-1965)

Prince Albert Indian Residential School (1965-1971)

"I fought like hell all the time. The nuns would try to drag us away and they'd try to touch me. But I fought back, so they'd throw me in the cellar as punishment. But I loved it down there. It was quiet and dark and no one could bother me... This nun used to take a broomstick and shove it down there. She did it to all of us. How can you sing to God and treat us like that?"

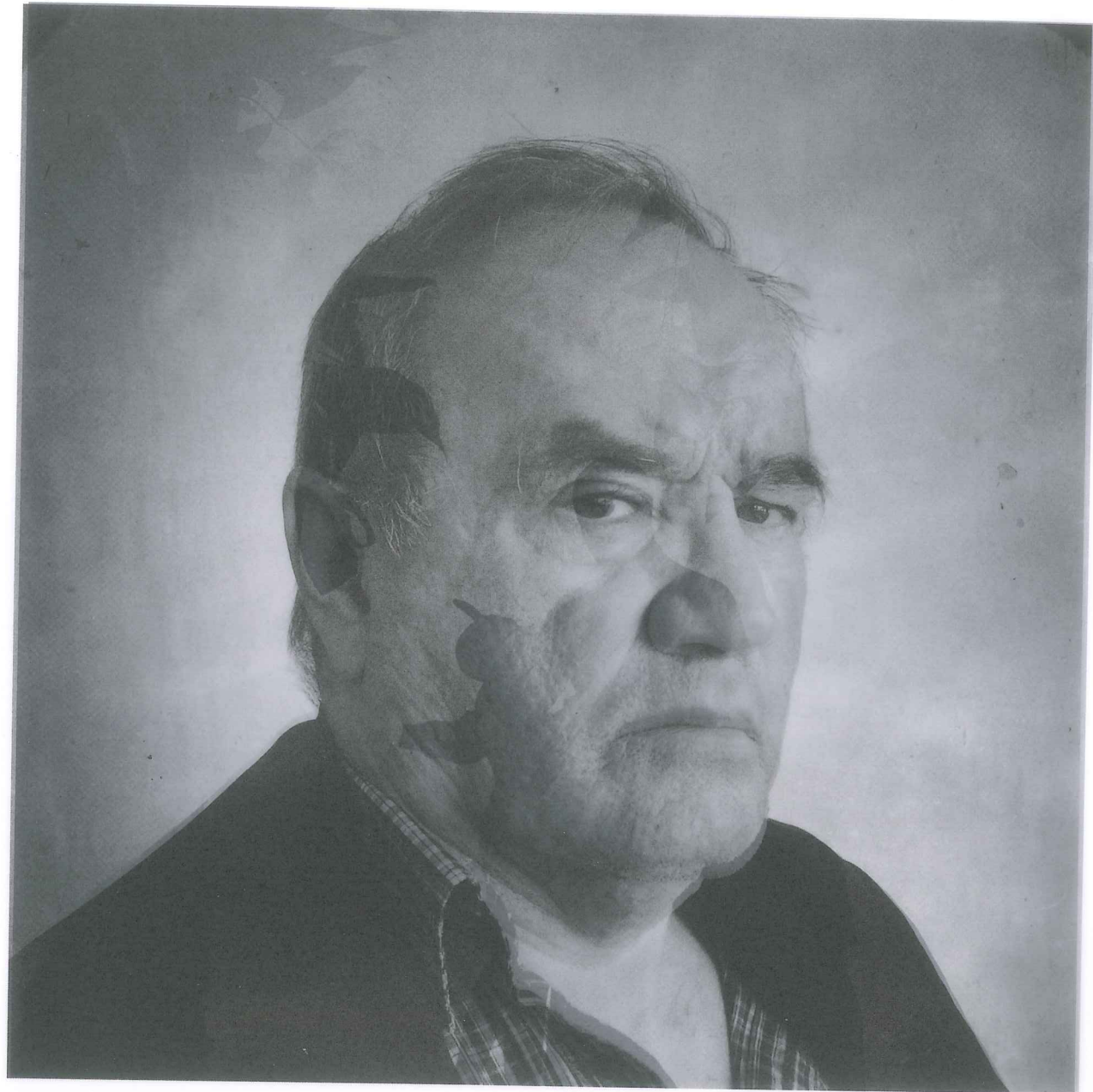


FRANT SEVERIGHT

St. Phillips Indian Residential School

1955-1964

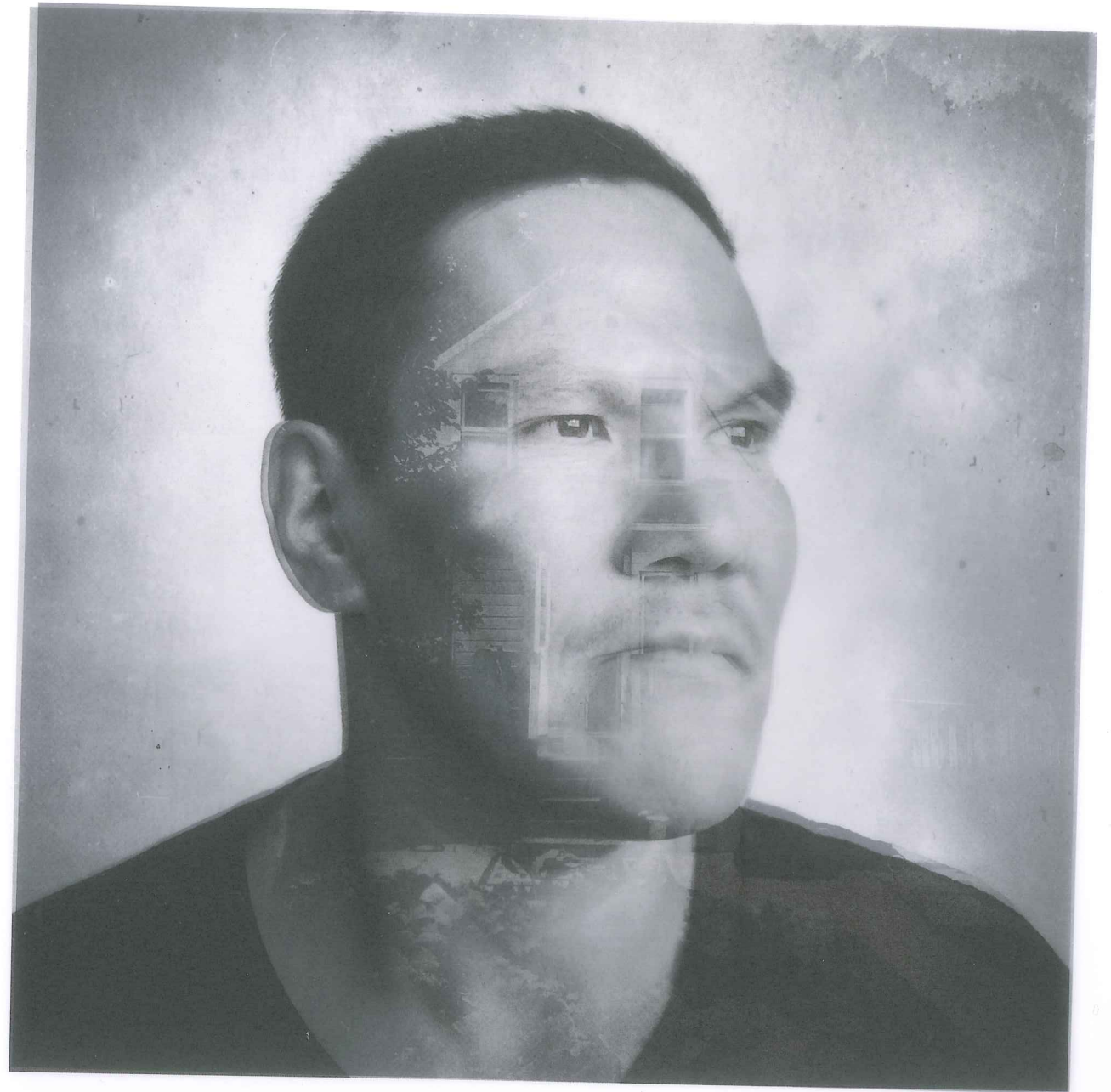
We as a people have normalized every conceivable
dysfunction that we experienced in residential
school. Negativity is transmitted — and, if we don't
deal with it, we pass it on. Even in school, kids
who themselves were terrorized grew up to be abusers.
We need to figure out how to heal from that."



MY KEVIN SAYER

Stowekwan Indian Residential School
1964-1984

I've spent half my life incarcerated and I blame
residential school for that. But I also know I have
given up my hate because I'm responsible for myself.
I have three adult daughters and I was in jail for the
protection of their childhoods. I have a two-year-old son
and I need to be there for him. I have to be different."



H GORDON EDECHANCHYONCE
1 Indian Residential School
1969

hard for me to really love my children. I grapple with
ard love. By the time I got out of school I'd started
ng heavily — I went to a center for alcohol abuse and
like a prison but it felt like home. I knew how to
n that environment... I got caught in the wrong place
me in history. I don't think we can ever heal from
We're just going to have to die with all the pain."

