

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?"

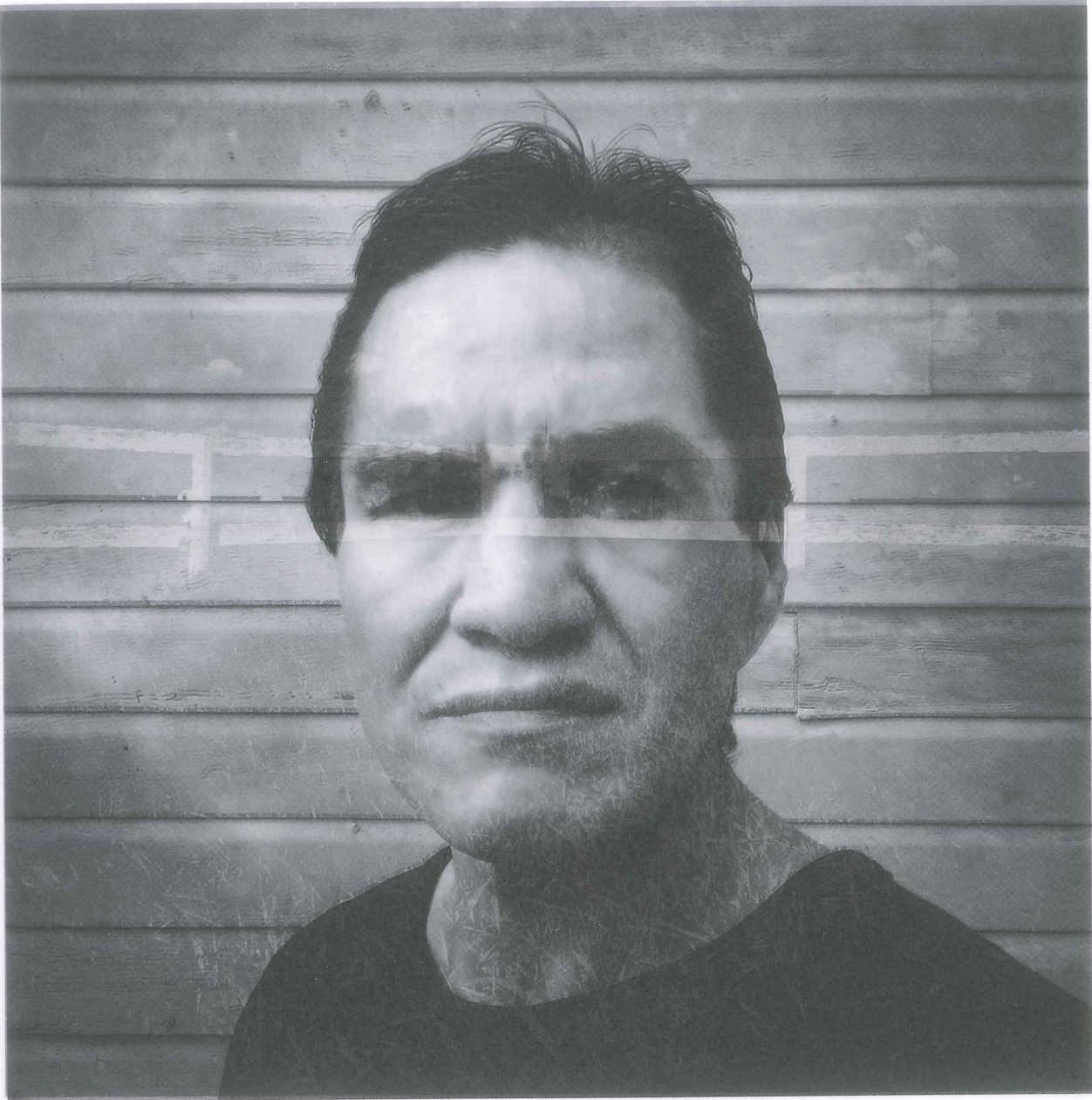
"73."





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

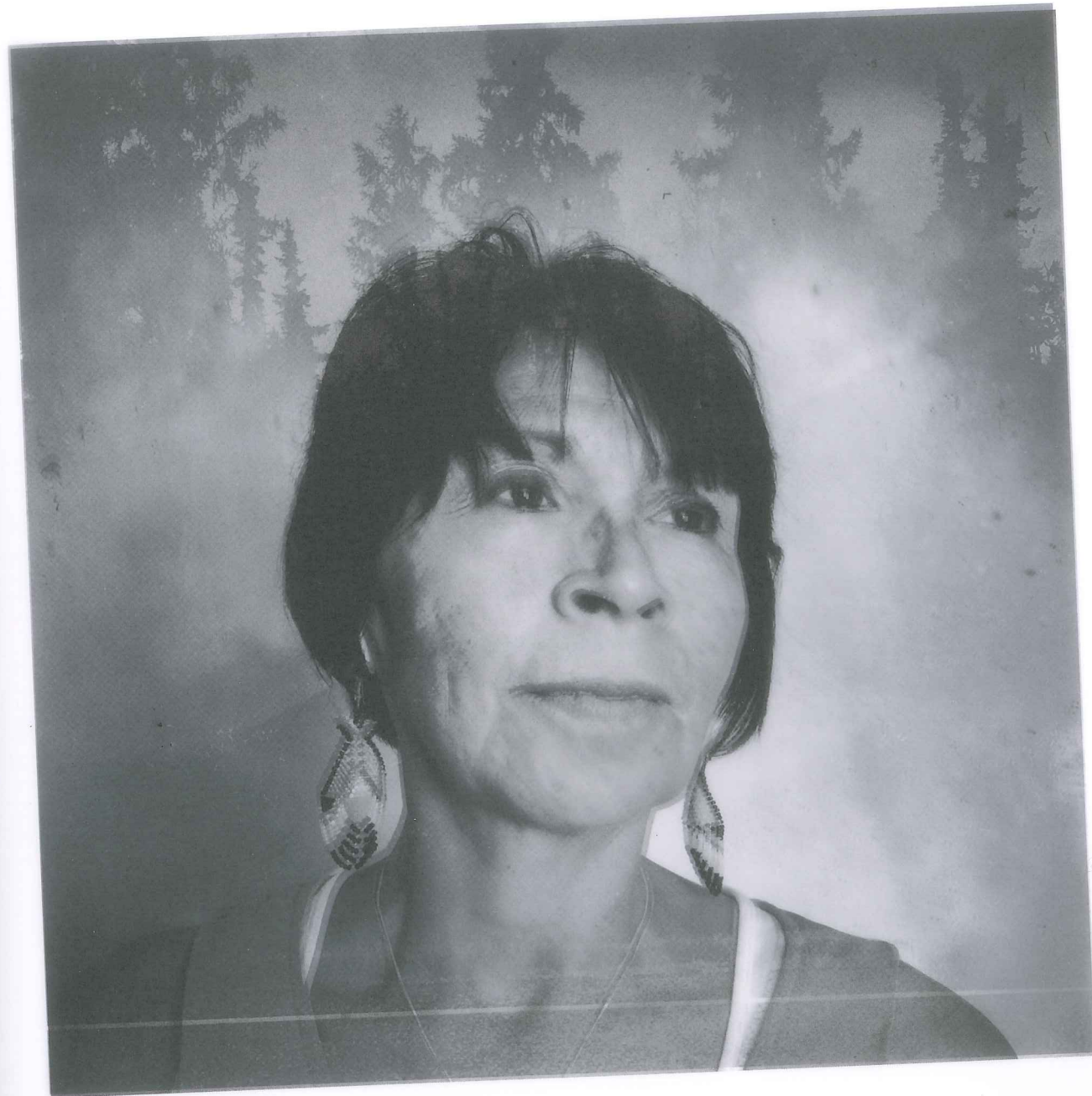
"I was raped at school. He was an old man, the janitor. I didn't tell anyone for decades, because I thought people would judge me. The only person I ever told was my mother [who went to Muskowekwan Residential School]. All she said was, 'That's how I was brought up, too.'"





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."



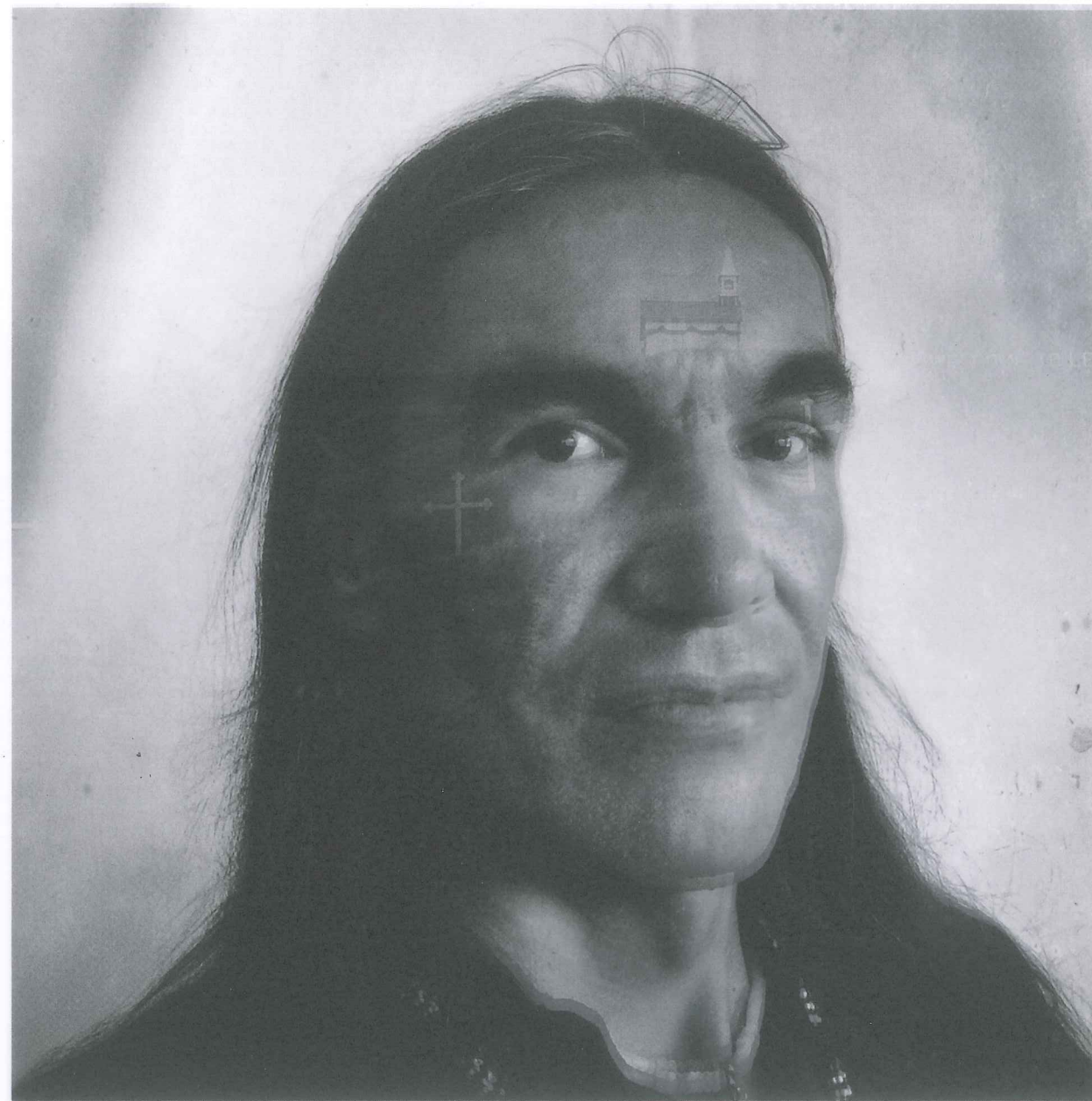
GARY EDWARDS

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."





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?"

