

**ROSALIE FAVELL**

Canadian / Métis, born Winnipeg, MB, Canada, 1958

*Facing the Camera: Shan Goshorn, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 2012, 2012*

Inkjet print, 17 x 22 inches

Block Friends of Art Fund purchase, 2019.26.8

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Rosalie Favell is a photo-based artist who often draws inspiration for her work from her family history and Métis heritage. She uses a variety of sources, ranging from pop culture to family albums, to present complex portraits of her experiences as a contemporary Indigenous woman and of the communities to which she belongs.

*Facing the Camera*, a project that took place over ten years (2008–18), represents the artist’s effort to create portraits of Indigenous artists and arts professionals as a larger document of this community. As artist and curator Barry Ace (Anishinaabe (Odawa); born 1958) has observed, through this project Favell is creating a “visual lineage of this art history movement [of contemporary Indigenous art].”<sup>1</sup> The series serves to both affirm community and counter stereotypical depictions by non-native photographers.

Favell developed the idea for the series during a residency at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity in Alberta, Canada. She later decided to set up portrait sessions as she traveled, which greatly expanded the project. For example, during a 2012 visit to Santa Fe, Favell photographed 175 people over the course of four days. The title of each work indicates the name of the sitter and the city in which they were photographed. Currently, the series includes over 500 works.

The Block’s collection includes ten photographs from *Facing the Camera*. They focus primarily on figures with connections to the museum and the greater Chicago area. The subjects include Shan Goshorn (Eastern Band Cherokee; 1957–2018) and Jaune Quick-to-See Smith (Salish, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Flathead Nation; born 1940), whose works are also in The Block’s collection; Marie Watt (Seneca; born 1967) whose work was featured in the 2017 Block exhibition *If You Remember, I’ll Remember*; Chris Pappan (Osage/Kaw/Cheyenne River Lakota Sioux; born 1971), an artist who lives and works in Chicago; and Daphne Odjig (Odawa/Potawatomi; 1919–2016), an influential modernist painter, for whom Chicago is part of her traditional homelands.

—Janet Dees

Steven and Lisa Munster Tananbaum Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art

1 Barry Ace, “Revealed: The Portraits of Rosalie Favell,” in *Facing the Camera: Rosalie Favell* (Winnipeg: Urban Shaman, 2012), 5.