

Some art lovers, curators and collectors who have acquired and commented on Edward Curtis prints by Paul Unks of Mountain Hawk Fine Art:

Ben W. Sherman

Oglala Lakota, from Pine Ridge, S. D. Related to Crazy Horse and Red Hawk
Director; First People's Fund and World Indigenous Tourism Alliance



You have done a tremendous amount of work to attain a high level of artistic quality with your prints. The colors and detail are excellent. The images tell a much better story to the viewer when they are such wonderful renderings.

Calling your attention to the outstanding print making of Paul Unks; He has worked for years to master the difficult process of making what might be the best Edward Curtis "gold-tone" prints to be found. This is an art form that deserves recognition.

Patricia Shine

Arts & Crafts and Edward Curtis Prints Collector, New York

February, 2013: "Nothing could have prepared me for what I was about to see when I opened the boxes. Your work is breathtaking. In my wildest expectations, I would never have expected to see this. Each piece is so beautiful. Paul- I am fortunate to have found you. Thank you so much. This is the beginning of a long and mutually beneficial relationship. I will play with their placement for a few days. That will help me define which piece(s) will be next and the framing treatment. Knock-out Gorgeous!!!! Thank you, Paul. Thanks so much."

August, 2015: "OMG!!!! OMG!!!!!! Paul- I am happy to the point of tears. And the Duck Hunter with its custom frame is beyond my expectations. I LOVE them. Absolutely love them. They look smashing!!!!!! My collection has grown to 13 now."

June, 2017: "YES!!!!!!YES!!!!!!!!!!YES!!!!!!!!!!!! The Rush Gatherer has arrived. Perfect condition. I am so in love with this- can't even BEGIN to explain. It is gorgeous. Ohhh Paul- thank u for making this happen for me. I shall treasure your work for all my days."

Steven Spielberg

Film Director and Producer, Los Angeles, CA

While on break from filming on location in South Pasadena, Mr. Spielberg walked into the Historic Lighting Gallery where he discovered and acquired some Mountain Hawk Curtis

photogravures. He remarked, *"These are beautiful, so well detailed, and I love the warm sepia tone. These are wonderful photogravures. Well done."*

Steven Karr, Ph.D.

President and CEO, National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City, OK
Director and Curator, Southwest Museum of the American Indian, Los Angeles, CA

"The story here is not so much the subject matter. Curtis took care of that. The story here is that you now own the technique, the artistic medium of the gold tone and photogravure. These are the best prints of Curtis's photographs I have seen. I'd like to do a comparative exhibit at our museum."

Marty Sugg

President of the Colorado Historical Photography Society
Director, Highland City Club Gallery, Boulder, CO

"I want to emphasize the quality and authenticity of the photogravure printing project of Edward Curtis' work by Paul Unks of Mountain Hawk. The photogravure process is not to be taken lightly. It is extremely demanding and requires the skill of a master printer using a press that applies thousands of pounds of pressure that actually embosses the image into the beautiful papers being used. The end result is breathtaking. I have been in the fine art business for several years mostly as a vintage photography dealer specializing in the work of Edward Curtis. I have a pretty good frame of reference and foundation for comparison. The prints by Paul Unks of Mountain Hawk are the best renditions of Curtis's photographs I have seen."

Woody Vaspra

Native American, Oglala, Lakota
President and Elder Liaison of the World Council of Elders

"I have talked with the Elders and we agree that finally, these historic photos and biographies of our ancestors are in good hands with you Paul, Mountain Hawk. It is clear to us that you are keeping our ancestors memory alive with honor, respect and integrity. We support you in this endeavor to ensure this very important era of history in North America endures."

Tommy and Shirley Soto

Arts & Crafts Collectors, Colorado

Thank you for making our Arts and Crafts Home what it is today. Your hand crafted Curtis prints line our walls, each telling a story of a people that once walked this earth. It is through your artistic vision and tenacious commitment in honoring Edward Curtis' dream of capturing a people and a way of life that continues the cultural and artistic legacy he started over 100 years ago. Each picture portrays a personal story, and through your knowledge of these people and their families, you have captured the true essence of what Curtis set out to document.

The images that were captured by the camera of Edward Curtis to the final product that comes from you represents his dream come true. If Curtis was still alive and could see the work you are currently producing, he would say "Job Well Done."

We are honored to be stewards of these pieces of artwork gracing our home. You have a special gift. Thank you for sharing your dream of "*Preserving an American Legacy*" with us.

Margaret Coel

New York Times Best Selling Author, Professor and Historian, Boulder, CO

After co-presenting on Curtis and the Native Americans with Paul, Margaret commissioned Mountain Hawk to make an extra-large sepia print of her favorite image of the Plains Indians for her mountain home. Margaret Coel is an American history scholar, known for her award winning Wind River Mystery series that incorporates Edward Curtis' work he did with the Arapaho Indians. She remarked, "*The Mountain Hawk prints of Native American images from the Edward Curtis' collection are faithfully done. It is obvious Paul has a great love and respect for Curtis' landmark work and for the American Indians.*"

Gregory Paolini

Master Wood Worker and Furniture Maker
Owner, Paolini Designs, Waynesville, N.C.

One of our neighbors at the National Arts & Crafts Conference was Paul Unks, of Mountain Hawk. Paul, through his adjunct professor status at the University of Denver, has received exclusive rights to the complete 20-volume set of mint conditioned original photographs by legendary 19th century photographer Edward Curtis.

Paul has restored the plates, and now offers limited edition Intaglio Photogravures and Gold Tone photographs, made from the originals. His work is incredible, and his passion for his craft and history

are evident in every aspect of his work. My wife and I have gotten some of his framed pieces for our home. Be sure to check it out!!

Chris Lohry

Fine Art Collector, San Francisco, California

Paul,

The print has arrived!!! The print is stunningly beautiful I think....quite beautiful. What a photo...wonder how you did it!!!...The frame is perfect....color, weight the wood is beautiful....hint of quarter sawn, perfectly stained and finished.....my framer (who placed the museum glass) said he just doesn't see frames like that anymore that are solid wood....can't get them....no one around here makes them apparently...feel very lucky to have found you. You are a top notch professional.

Feel very lucky to have found you and your site....it appears that you have a great respect and love of these prints, their beauty and their history. I hope very much that I could see some of the plates someday...I would bring a really good bottle of wine.

Take care...

Thanks again.

Bruce Johnson

Founder and Director, "National Arts and Crafts Conference", Asheville, N.C.

When Paul Unks first contacted me about becoming a participant in the annual National Arts and Crafts Conference held every February since 1988 at the historic Grove Park Inn overlooking Asheville, N.C., I had no idea at how many levels Paul would participate.

In addition to exhibiting his authentic prints of Edward Curtis photographs he painstakingly creates using the same methods and techniques practiced by the famed Arts and Crafts era photographer, Paul immediately volunteered to lead a roundtable discussion prior to the opening of the three-day Arts and Crafts Conference. The popularity of his discussion group led to an invitation for Paul to give the key note address our audience of more than 1,000 collectors, curators, and enthusiasts at the 2013 Arts and Crafts Conference. Afterwards, there was quite a "buzz" going around the resort. Several people who have participated in the conference for years remarked it was the best presentation they have ever been to.

And as I have now grown to expect from Paul, his presentation was not a predictable recitation of a Curtis biography. Instead, he tantalized and captivated his audience with the topic "Edward Curtis: Creative Photographer or Marketing Genius?" Needless to say, they left with a new appreciation and fresh view of Edward Curtis -- and Paul Unks.

Paul continues to be an active participant at the National Arts and Crafts Conference, where his booth is always filled with collectors marveling over the richness and three-dimensional qualities of his Curtis photogravures. While some come to add one of Paul's works to their collection, others come to learn even more about Edward Curtis, his life and his work. I would without hesitation recommend Paul to anyone in search of a captivating, informative, and engaging speaker, and would be happy to expand on this brief introduction at any time.

Robert Redford

Actor, Producer and Director; Founder/Owner Sundance Resort and Film Festival, Park City, UT

The prints are wonderful. I especially like that you made some of the landscapes Curtis did at much larger sizes while maintaining the integrity of the originals. They look terrific at the larger scale. One of my favorites is "A Piegan Encampment" where the Sundance ceremony was being conducted at the time. We love our prints. Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Redford", with a stylized, cursive script.

Robert Redford

Steve Fisher

Curator and Historian, Special Collections Library, Denver University

When Paul Unks first approached me many years ago about a project to reintroduce the works of Edward Curtis, I was a bit skeptical. Our set had been given to the University of Denver back in the 1930's and is one of only a few complete sets in existence. After a year of discussion and negotiation, we decided to grant exclusive rights to Paul to reproduce images from our collection under the condition that it be done properly and authentically. After seven years, his determination resulted in his being able to produce really fine photogravures. I remember his many trials and experiments with new methods and his frustration when the images were not just exactly perfect. I would think a new reproduction looked just fine and Paul would shake his head and say "no – look at this..." Now each time he makes a new printing plate and photogravure, he brings it in so we can compare it to the original. I am always amazed at how he is able to match the original qualities of the vintage prints. I don't know how he has managed to accomplish it, but he has done justice to Curtis. Because of this accomplishment, Paul has brought Curtis' important work back to light so that more people today can have access to it. I

can honestly say that I am also a customer – not long ago I bought one of Paul's Curtis prints for my own home.

Carrie Fulcher

Fine Art Print Collector, North Carolina

We just received the print and we are both struck by how absolutely beautiful it is. You are an amazing artist/craftsman and you do Edward Curtis immense justice carrying on his legacy. Thank you so much!!!

Don and Faye MacIntyre

Arts & Crafts Collectors, Maryland

Dear Paul,

It was a pleasure to meet you at the National Arts & Crafts Conference, see your work and feel your passion first hand. The photographs from Edward Curtis that you have managed to bring back to life were the highlight of the show for us.

My husband and I really enjoyed talking with you and getting an introduction to the history behind the photos. Thank you for what you have done to make these high quality work of art pictures available to a broader audience.

Sincerely,
Faye

Cindy and Paul Schreck

Native American Scholars, Boulder, CO

My husband Paul and I were mesmerized by your work. Meeting you was a thrill, your work and skill stunning and the course you have chosen (or been given) is one of spirit and soul. A point that I most sincerely hope is not lost on those who are fortunate enough to have purchased some of your prints. They are achingly beautiful and luminous. I have spent many years looking at Curtis's work and was so grateful to see that it has fallen to you to care for it and bring the photos so beautifully back to life.

Needless to say, your prints touched a chord that is deep and intimate for Paul and me. So many memories of being with the elders and family doing ceremony!

John Fielder

Renowned Nature Photographer and Author

Owner John Fielder's Colorado | Denver Photo Art Gallery

Edward Curtis was a western U.S. photography pioneer and hero to his successors. I admire what he accomplished dealing with the rigors of large format dry plate photography, and as a western history buff, I appreciate what he has documented. Paul Unks is a credit to photography and history as he faithfully perpetuates Curtis' legacy.

Dr. and Mrs. S. W. Ford

Archeological Scientist and Fine Art Collector, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Dear Paul,

I want to thank you for the fine work you've done on the Curtis library of work. My wife and I have spent years acquiring fine works of art. Our collection is small, but we are proud of it. The collection has a Remington, a Picasso, a Dali and a large collection of Robert Taylor aviation and maritime pictures. It took over ten years searching before we chanced across your work.

Everything we saw during the search for Curtis photos just didn't pass a close up inspection. They were copies of copies and lacked sharpness and detail. When we saw your work, we were amazed at the detail, light quality and superb framing each picture projected. I was surprised by the details in pictures we thought we were familiar with over the years we searched. We had the opportunity recently to see several dozen original Curtis photos that were in a private collection in our hometown. I think Mr. Curtis would tip his hat to your efforts and say. "This is exactly as I saw it." What came, as a great surprise was the reasonable cost of these iconic pictures.

Thanks again for your efforts to preserve these works of art and history and making them available. Your suggestion as to framing was much appreciated and right on.

Tim Holton

Master frame maker, Berkeley, California

"Paul Unks, founder of Mountain Hawk, has produced an exquisite collection of intaglio prints of iconic American Indian images by early twentieth century photographer Edward Curtis. The work includes folios of photogravures that have become highly treasured and sought after.

While in recent decades, some printers have produced re-strikes from the original plates, many of those plates have been lost, destroyed or damaged, and the ones that are intact are worn from aging, exposure and repeated printing. Paul Unks of Mountain Hawk has gone a step further in craftsmanship and quality to produce his photogravures. Working from an early set of pristine images and using high-resolution photography, he has created new copper plates; then, in collaboration with a master print maker, and refining his ink and sourcing a very fine paper—a tissue that is translucent, imparting a wonderful dimensionality to the print—he has produced new photogravures of incomparable quality. Many people have remarked that the sharpness and detail are every bit as good as the best originals. As Curtis himself was able to produce just about half of his intended edition of 500, Paul's great purpose is to complete the edition—and so in a real sense to fulfill Curtis's mission. A passionate historian and speaker on Curtis, as well as craftsman, Paul is thoroughly devoted to honoring Curtis's legacy with this truly extraordinary collection. For years now we've enjoyed great

satisfaction in framing Mountain Hawk's work, and are thrilled to offer this tremendous achievement—both Edward Curtis's and Mountain Hawk's—that this collection represents. Each print is editioned in pencil and is subtly but clearly marked with the Mountain Hawk name so as to maintain integrity and avoid confusion with originals.

Adam Reynolds

Art Collector, Longmont, Colorado

First, I must say what an incredible visit that was to your studio and gallery. I enjoyed seeing Curtis' work like never before. You have truly done an incredible service to his work, to the natives and their way of life, and to the landscapes. I was particularly taken by The Duck Hunter in your front room. I also am a huge fan of Frank Lloyd Wright, so seeing the lighting and furniture you have in your studio had me longing.

Ever since we saw the Canyon De Chelly in the gallery in Fort Collins, we knew at some point we would have that one or a version of it. I think it was fortuitous that it was sold just before we were set to buy it. If we had, my wife Brenda would likely not have researched and found you. What a loss that would have been. We will be getting the big wonderful gold tone of Canon De Chelly.

Brenda Todd

Archeologist, Historian and fine art collector, Loveland, CO

Thank you so much for spending time with us this morning. Your work is truly spectacular, and it was amazing to see the differences between the gold tones, and photogravures in person.

I think that what you are doing is important. By figuring out Curtis's hand-made printing techniques and recreating it with such passion, depth, and accuracy, I think you are providing a huge service in terms of ensuring that Curtis' gift to us all isn't lost, and also that it is made accessible to more people. Your work is an honor to Curtis himself in a world of shoddy knockoffs and poster prints. As an anthropologist and person who has a love for the Southwest and for Native culture, I was immensely moved.

My heart is truly lost to the gold tones.

Thank you again.

Michael Whelan

Art dealer and collector, Las Vegas, Nevada

Paul, Our meeting at your exhibit was unforgettable. You have found a way to make the best fine art prints of Curtis's photographs I've ever seen, the way he did. What you have undertaken and accomplished will be collected for future generations to learn from and enjoy.

My Admiration, Respect.

Sincerely Yours,
Michael

John Graybill Curtis

Great Grandson of Edward Curtis and Western Photographer

Paul Unks of Mountain Hawk printing is producing beautiful new photogravure prints from Edward Curtis' original portfolio prints. Paul's Gold Tones are equally beautiful and in sizes never before seen, truly exquisite works of art!



John Graybill Curtis with Paul Unks
Mountain Hawk's home studio, Centennial, CO

Gretchen Platt & Charlie Bartberger

Arts & Crafts collectors

Dear Paul,

Thank you for taking time to talk with all of us about your dedicated efforts to preserve much of the legacy of Native Americans by acquiring exclusive rights to the classic photographs of Edward Curtis archived at University of Denver and by expertly recreating those photographs. What we find so awesome is your passion to research and understand Native American life and culture portrayed in the Curtis photographs; your passion to preserve the legacy of Native Americans by authentically recreating the photographs; and especially your dedication to produce the highest-quality prints by rigorously mastering Curtis's original techniques and processes. The results are such stunning prints that Curtis, himself, would find them virtually indistinguishable from his own originals.

Gretchen Platt & Charlie Bartberger
Susan Gibson Veyna & Pete Veyna
Heather & John McKillop

Yosef Wosk, Ph.D.,

Professor and Art Collector, Vancouver, Canada

August, 2012:

Paul,

All your work has paid off: the 32 boxes with the framed pieces arrived safely! I opened all the boxes and we have been enjoying the photographs. Some of the large gold tone pieces are real masterworks!

It is always nice to see the successful conclusion to a dream project including all of the many steps since we met in North Carolina. They are simply too compelling and inspiring. Even an accidental glance is enough to transform the moment.

Thank you for your work and vision.
All the best,

Yosef

September, 2013

To those considering acquiring prints of Edward Curtis's photography:

It was a revelation to meet Paul Unks and to revel in his photography. He is that rare artisan who can pay tribute to earlier masters—specifically Edward Curtis—and to celebrate their oeuvre. Paul's sensitivity and respect for the authenticity of the work gives a new generation of collectors the opportunity to appreciate photographic genius. Paul and his dedication are treasures in our midst.

Yosef Wosk, Ph.D., Vancouver, Canada

Tom and Robin Thornley

Owner, The Historic Full Circle Ranch House, and Fine Art Collector, Sonoma, CA

We just put up the four gold tones in their prairie style frames.

Beyond Stunning. Beautiful.

Words can't describe how special these images are to us.

Thank you.

Tom

Quinn B. Jacobson

Photographer, artist, teacher and author.

(Quinn is a Master Photographer and renowned expert on 19th century photographic techniques. He is the Author of 4 books.)

December 1, 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this regarding Mr. Paul Unks (Mountain Hawk Fine Art). I met Paul in September of 2018, and have always known him to be an outstanding individual with a lot of integrity, kindness and just an overall wonderful human being. I believe that his skills and experience make him one of the top, if not the top, in his specialty of making Photogravures and Gold Tones from the original photographs of Edward Curtis.

Paul's work shows his attention to detail. He never cuts corners or willing to lower the bar when it comes to producing the work. His methods are both historically accurate and beautiful. His methods are organized, efficient, and professional.

He engages everyone he meets and challenges their thinking about both photography and his role as an ambassador for Mr. Curtis and Indigenous Peoples in the 21st century. His passion, combined with his humanity, makes him an asset to our world.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me by phone or email.

Regards,

Quinn B. Jacobson

Director, Studio Q Retreat & Training Center

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