



Wet Plate Photographer Shane Balkowitsch

July 6, 2020

Today I'm thrilled to bring you a conversation with Shane Balkowitsch in which he shares his story as he dived down the Wet Plate Collodion Photography rabbit hole.

Shane contacted me about his work a few weeks ago, and asked if I'd like to chat. It took me about 30 seconds on his website to realize that the work he is doing, is both beautiful and historically important, so we arranged a time to talk, and talk we did.

The resulting conversation was almost two hours long, so I'm going to split this into two parts with part two coming up next week. All of the images that we discuss are in this document though, so there's no need for a second eBook for part two.

Here is the framework that I prepared before the conversation, which I'll include to give you an idea of what we talked about.

- I'm really looking forward to talking about your wet plate collodion Ambrotype photography, but first, please tell us a little about yourself.
- I find it amazing that you jumped straight into photography with your wet plate camera and process. How difficult was it for you to get up to speed on the key techniques and calculations involved?
- The video that you have on your website "Unabashedly Myself" is amazing. I love how you opened that guy up and even just in the 90 seconds of the video we can see how great you made him look even though, as he says, he was very vulnerable during the shoot. Tell us more about that shoot and the musician?
- I was deeply moved by your Celebrating Native America Heritage Month video, and last night also had a chance to watch your full documentary on Vimeo. The work you are doing is beautiful and culturally rich and, of course, historically

important. Tell us how you came to start your Native American portrait project and what that means to you?

- I have selected 10 images from those that you sent me, including two self-portraits. Let's walk through the images one by one. Please tell us a little about each image.

Links

You can catch up with Shane and view much of his beautiful work here:

<http://sharoncol.balkowitsch.com/wetplate.htm>

Shane's documentary is here:

<https://vimeo.com/397982207>

And here is the IMDB page for his recent documentary:

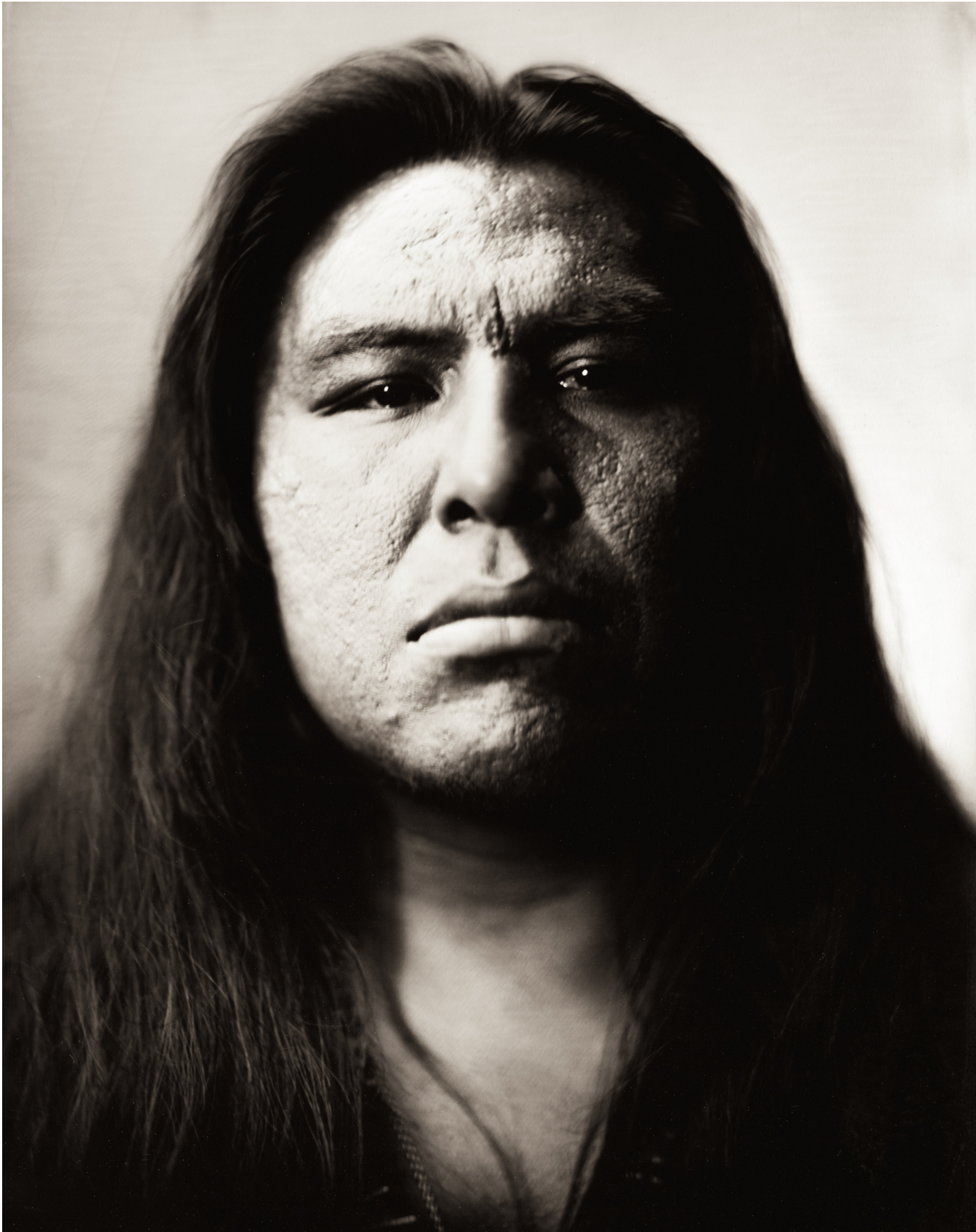
<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt11929442/>

Shane's Wet Plate Photographs

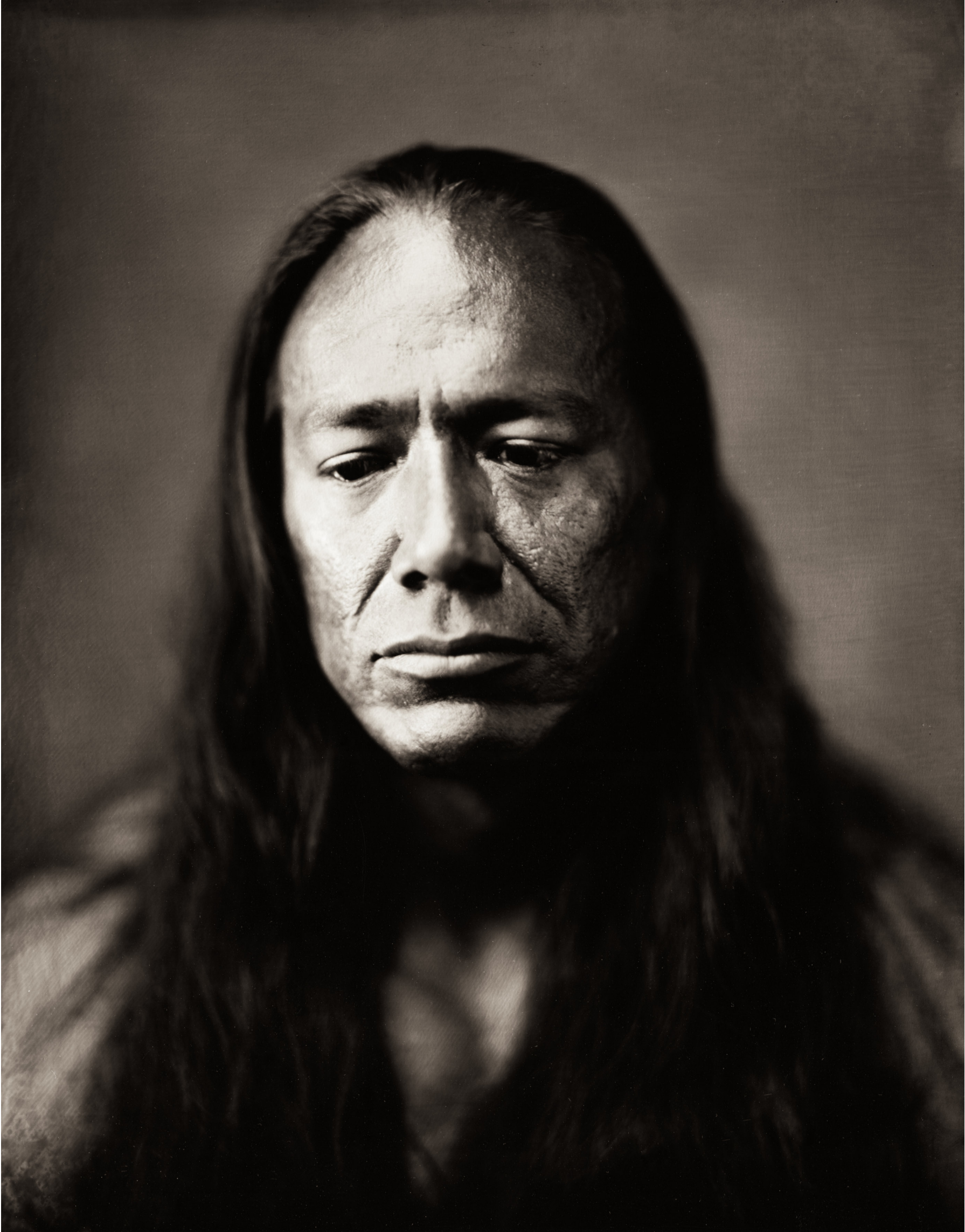
On the following pages I'll share the ten images that Shane kindly allowed me to share with you. Along with their titles and image number, which incidentally has been incremented with every wet plate that Shane has exposed.

Albert Richard Little Owl III
12-13-2019 #3398





Dean Dedman, Jr. 5-24-2020 #3532



Kory David Annis 9-27-2019 #3311



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Larry Allen Yazzie 12-20-2019 #3405



Larry Allen Yazzie 12-20-2019 #3404



Aiyana Rayne Burnstick 11-8-2019 #3360



Troy Fox Keahna Morsette 9-8-2019 #3286



Veronica Lynn Skinaway
1-3-2020 #3419



Shane Balkowitsch - The Mask of Social Distancing
3-27-2020 #3496



Shane Balkowitsch - The Pandemic Thinker
4-3-2020 #3499



MARTIN BAILEY PHOTOGRAPHY K.K.

This article was first published on July 6, 2020

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