

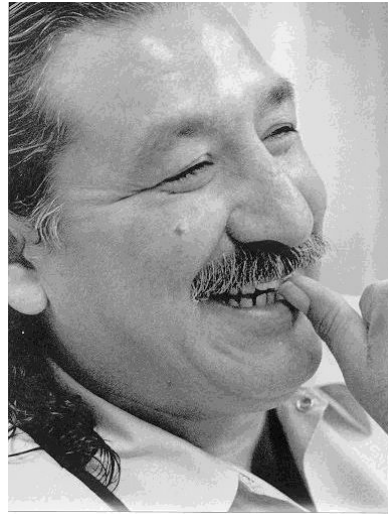
LEONARD PELTIER



I Dance With the Spirit of the Horse
(2003)

Subject of Robert Redford's film, *Incident at Oglala*, and *Warrior*, a Suzi Baer documentary

The Activist. Leonard Peltier, now a great-grandfather, is a citizen of the Anishinabe & Dakota/Lakota Nations & a tireless advocate for Indigenous Rights. A participant in the American Indian Movement, he went to assist the Oglala Lakota people on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in the mid-1970s where, on June 26, 1975, a tragic shoot out occurred. He was wrongfully convicted in the deaths of two agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation & has been illegally incarcerated since 1976.



Leonard Peltier

The Artist. Leonard Peltier's self-taught style is an outgrowth of drawing & carving lessons he received as a child from tribal elders.

Leonard Peltier began working with pastels in 1983, proving he had talent to put what he saw on paper. His spirit began to know a freedom he had never before experienced.

Although limited by the prison environment, Mr. Peltier has emerged as a master of Indigenous Art. Leonard's artwork reflects his beliefs & commitment to Native American culture. It is The People's struggle to survive & his desire to portray their cultural beauty that inspires Peltier to paint.

In 1986, Leonard suffered a stroke & lost about eighty percent of his sight in his left eye.

"My eye problem has slowed me down considerably, but I am still inspired."

Leonard's paintings, viewable at www.leonardpeltier.org/catalogart.html, are collected by such noted personalities as Oliver Stone, Peter Coyote, Jane Fonda, Val Kilmer, Michael Apted, Shep Gordon, & Oliver Shanti, as well as many other international celebrities & luminaries.

The Humanitarian. Mr. Peltier has made remarkable contributions to humanitarian & charitable causes during his many years in prison. He has won several human rights awards, including the North Star Frederick Douglas Award; Federation of Labour (Ontario, Canada) Humanist of the Year Award; Human Rights Commission of Spain International Human Rights Prize; & the 2004 Silver Arrow Award for Lifetime Achievement. For six consecutive years, Mr. Peltier also was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

- Mr. Peltier has played a key role in getting people from different tribes, with a history of animosity, to come together in peace. He advocates for peaceful resolution of all Native American issues & respect for the rights of others.
- Mr. Peltier has worked with Dr. Steward Selkin on a pilot program on the Rosebud Reservation, the Leonard Peltier Health Care Reform Package, to document needs & requirements for delivery & care. The ultimate intent of the program is to fundamentally alter health care delivery on reservations throughout the U.S.
- He has worked with Professor Jeffery Timmons on a program to stimulate reservation-based economics & investments in Native American business enterprises, including a component to teach business ownership & operation to the young people of First Nations.
- In 1992, Leonard Peltier established a scholarship at New York University for Native American students seeking law degrees. He also was instrumental in the establishment & funding of a Native American newspaper by & for Native young people in Washington State. In addition to having raised two of his grandchildren from prison, Mr. Peltier has been a sponsoring father of two children through ChildReach, one in El Salvador & the other in Guatemala. Every year, he sponsors a Christmas food & gift drive for the children of Pine Ridge. Peltier also serves on the Board of the Rosenberg Fund for Children.
- Mr. Peltier also organized an emergency food drive for the people of Pohlo, Mexico, in response to the Acteal Massacre. He frequently contributes to Head Start programs & domestic violence shelters to address funding shortfalls.
- Peltier has helped several Indian prisoners rehabilitate themselves by advocating a drug- & alcohol-free lifestyle while encouraging pride & knowledge in their culture & traditions. He also has worked to develop prisoner art programs thereby increasing prisoners' self-confidence.
- Leonard Peltier donates his artwork to several human rights & social welfare organizations to help them raise funds. Most recently, recipients have included the ACLU; Trail of Hope (a Native American conference dealing with drug & alcohol addiction); World Peace & Prayer Day; the First Nation Student Association; & the Buffalo Trust Fund.

The Writer. Released in 1999, Peltier's book, *Prison Writings: My Life Is My Sundance*, was met with critical acclaim.

Doing time creates a demented darkness of my own imagination; doing time does this thing to you. But of course, you don't do time. You do without it. Or rather, time does you. Time is a cannibal that devours the flesh of your years day by day, bite by bite.

— Leonard Peltier

According to the book's editor, Harvey Arden, "Leonard Peltier's powerful memoir, a Native American spiritual testament, will shake the conscience of the nation... & the world. It's a flaming arrow aimed at the circled wagons of American injustice."

Archbishop Desmond Tutu called it: "A deeply moving & very disturbing story of a gross miscarriage of justice & an eloquent *cri de coeur* of Native Americans for redress & to be regarded as human beings with inalienable rights guaranteed under the United States Constitution... We pray that it does not fall on deaf ears. America owes it to herself."