



Banded Boys **Banded Men**

Paul Oberst and Patrick McNamara

Banded Boys Banded Men

Paul Oberst and Patrick McNamara
Collaborators

Paul Oberst

The photographs reproduced in this book are part of a much larger project. Eventually each decade in the life of man will be represented by an individual often paired with one or two from another period in life. It is our desire to have the last five decades represented by a diverse racial and ethnic mix of individuals expanding the impact of the series. The project will also encompass a series investigating the ten year increments in the lives of women. The photographs in this book show males in their first decade, the teens, 20's, 30's and 40's. These images are but a sampling of the photographs being assembled in the collection.

The models are not professionals. They are friends, relatives or associates who were asked to join in this project not even knowing the other participants in most cases. They were asked to paint their bodies and to become primal male beings transcending time and place. What I found most powerful is the confidence, firmness, gentleness and respect these individuals showed one another in a culture wherein such proximity would more often be cause for concern or fear.

The black and white banding pays homage to trickster and clown body painting and costuming the world over. Most especially I honor the clown kachinas of the Southwest Pueblo Indians who impressed upon me the mysteries of their liberating presences.

This project would remain only a concept were it not for my collaborator Patrick McNamara. My job was to bring the boys and men into the project, find the location and create the prop elements for the photo session. Once I set the situation up, Patrick guided the individuals into more precise relation to one another so that every detail worked to intensify the emotional and formal content of each image. Often the group would break into spontaneous playful bravado true to the nature of the trickster. Patrick was able to capture the discovery, intensity and subtle mood of each situation the boys and men formed.



Elevation



Bunch

