

## STANDING UP: MOMENTS FROM A MOVEMENT

In 2016 the Dakota Access pipeline (DAPL) was poised to cross under the Missouri River near the city of Bismark N.D. When concerns of potential water contamination were raised by the predominately White population of Bismark, the pipeline owners, Energy Transfer Partners, agreed to voluntarily reroute it away from the city. The new route would take the pipeline across Native sacred lands near the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation, and run it under the Missouri River at Lake Oahe, the main source of drinking water for the reservation.

Native American concerns about potential contamination of their drinking water fell on deaf ears. So a small group of Native Americans from the reservation stood up to resist. They put out a call for other indigenous nations and non-indigenous allies to join them in defending the water.

The pipeline resistance led by Native Americans, based on Native American principles of non-violence and spirituality, resonated with people everywhere and they responded to the call, coming to Standing Rock and settling into three resistance camps near the pipeline construction site. Oceti Sakowin camp was the largest of these camps and it in particular became the epicenter of the burgeoning intersectional #NoDAPL movement, gaining support and solidarity from people across the Americas and the globe.

While it initially appeared to many to be a singular instance of environmental activism, narrowly aimed at stopping the pipeline, the #NoDAPL movement is in fact grounded in a centuries long history of indigenous resistance to colonial dispossession and defense of indigenous sacred sites and Native sovereignty. Over 300 tribal Nations from across the Americas converged at Standing Rock, making it the largest gathering of indigenous peoples in North America in over a century. This tremendous show of Native solidarity inspired a reenergized and resurgent indigenous unity movement which continues to grow and strengthen today.

New York City based photographer Mark Manley had been following the events at Standing Rock since late spring of 2016. By September, it seemed clear something historic was happening there. So with cameras in tow, Mark left New York and headed to Oceti Sakowin camp, to see for himself the burgeoning community at the heart of the #NoDAPL movement.

This exhibition, comprised of four photographic series and a documentary video short, showcases his impressions of what he found there. It is less documentary photojournalism than personal photojournalism. It is moments from a larger movement seen through his lens. - photographer Mark Manley