

Ken Blackbird

Ken Blackbird grew up on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation. He left when he was 19 after his parents passed away. He spent time as a welder in Texas and a forest ranger and fire fighter in Yellowstone before graduating from University of Montana with a degree in journalism. Working for a newspaper eventually led him to photography. Ken is Assiniboine/Gros Ventre and an enrolled member of the Fort Belknap Indian Community of Montana. He has been a photojournalist and freelance photographer for over 30 years. Ken was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 2003 for his depictions of modern life in Cuba. In his photography you will notice the focus that he has on light, layers and the people themselves. Ken Blackbird strives to capture people as they truly are; The way they should be.



Three Girls Walking along a Path, 1992, Ken Blackbird (Gros Ventre/ Assiniboine), Color Photograph, 15.5 x 23", Gift of the artist, David Orser and Ossie Abrams (2002.5)

“I’ve learned one thing about being a photographer working in the field: I never know who I’m going to meet. When you get to know them, it’s always surprising. Every time you go out, you learn something new or you meet new people. That’s the exciting part.”

Ken Blackbird currently lives and works as a photographer in Cody, Wyoming.

- *Native Photographer Ken Black Bird*, Cowboys and Indians Magazine, by Dana Joseph, Feb 2017, <https://www.cowboysindians.com/2017/02/native-photographer-ken-blackbird/>
- *Texture Portraits: The Ken Blackbird Collection*, Buffalo Bill Center of the West, Nancy McClure, June 2014, <https://centerofthewest.org/2014/06/09/exhibition-ken-blackbird-collection/>