

KEVIN RED STAR

» Crow Indian Artist «

KEVIN RED STAR is not only one of the most widely acclaimed Native American artists, but he is also a visual historian of his people, the Crow. His art celebrates, commemorates, and perpetuates the Crow culture.

Kevin Red Star showcases the talents of Red Star in this brilliant compilation of his artwork while also exploring the motivations of the man. Red Star's childhood on the reservation, his time at the Institute of American Indian Arts and San Francisco Art Institute, and his friends and family are all a part of his ever-evolving path of personal and cultural expression that makes his artwork so iconoclastic and recognizable. His work is synonymous with contemporary Native American art.

Gibson and Leaken have done an outstanding job of bringing together prime examples of Red Star's art, gathered from museums and collections worldwide, with personal homilies and interviews to create an engaging story and a beautiful book.

For more information about Kevin Red Star and the Crow people, visit www.bookofredstar.com.

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DANIEL GIBSON & KITTY LEAKEN

Kevin Red Star



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GIBSON & LEAKEN
GIBBS SMITH

Art/Regional



DANIEL GIBSON earned a B.A. in journalism and photography from the University of New Mexico and has worked as a freelance writer and editor for numerous publications, including the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *American Way*, *Outside*, *Sierra*, *ARTnews*, *Animals*, *Ski*, *Powder*, *the Santa Fean*, *Cowboys & Indians*, *New Mexico Magazine*, *Southwest Art*, and *Indian Artist*. He served as editor of *Native Peoples* magazine for twelve years, and as a columnist for the *Santa Fe New Mexican*. Gibson edited the book *Body, Mind & Spirit: Native Foods of the Americas*, and has also written four major guidebooks, including the popular *Pueblos of the Rio Grande: A Visitor's Guide*. He lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

KITTY LEAKEN, a seasoned photojournalist, creates documentaries that preserve art and culture of native peoples of the world. After graduating from Stanford University, she worked at newspapers in Santa Fe, and then ran a nonprofit, Art Refuge, for displaced and orphaned youth in Tibet, India, and Sri Lanka. Leaken has been the photographer for several books, including *Art of Exile*, *Café Pasqual's*, *Cooking with Johnny Vee*, and *Contemporary Native American Artists*. She is an official photographer for the Southwestern Association for Indian Arts and lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Front cover: Kevin Red Star, *Old War Dogs*, n.d., mixed media on canvas, 30 x 36 inches. Courtesy of Kevin Red Star archives.

Back cover: Kevin Red Star, *Evening Mountain Horses*, 2008, acrylic on canvas, 20 x 16 inches. Collection of Jacob Murphy Johnson. Courtesy of Ann Murphy Kincheloe.

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LATTER CAREER

The first decade of the twenty-first century ushered in many rewarding and reassuring developments, both professionally and personally, for Red Star, but also one profoundly tragic loss.

Late at night, on May 14, 2008, his 29-year-old daughter Merida Red Star Miller was killed in a car accident on I-90 near Livingston, Montana. His first-born daughter—a lovely person full of life, vigor, and humor—had also become Red Star’s primary business manager, dynamically handling almost all aspects of his career and allowing him to concentrate on his work. She was beautiful, stylish, and an attentive mother to Red Star’s beloved grandson, Mason Miller. It was a huge blow to the man and the artist. As one close associate, art dealer Alex Betts of Santa Fe, notes, “He never got over it but he got through it.”

Artist’s block had never plagued Red Star; under almost any condition he could produce. Art was the constant beacon in his life. But the loss of his daughter shook him to his core, and for some two years his well of inspiration dried up. It was a dark period for the artist, but he slowly began to work again and to look forward. Work beget work, pulling him out of his funk.

His star continued to rise in the eyes of art critics and mainstream media in the new century. In 2010, a 30-minute television profile about him, *From the Spirit*, aired on select PBS stations across the United States and nationwide in Canada, and a DVD of the program was released. *Contemporary Native American Artists*, a book published in 2012 about 18 prominent Indian artists, included a chapter on Red Star.

*Snowy Tipis, First Snow
Fallen, Rock Creek
Valley*, 1995, mixed
media on canvas, 28 x
34 inches. Courtesy of
Kevin Red Star archives.

Overleaf: *Buffalo Dance*,
2012, acrylic on canvas, 30
x 24 inches. Courtesy of
Kevin Red Star archives.



Tommy