

DOUBLE EXPOSURE

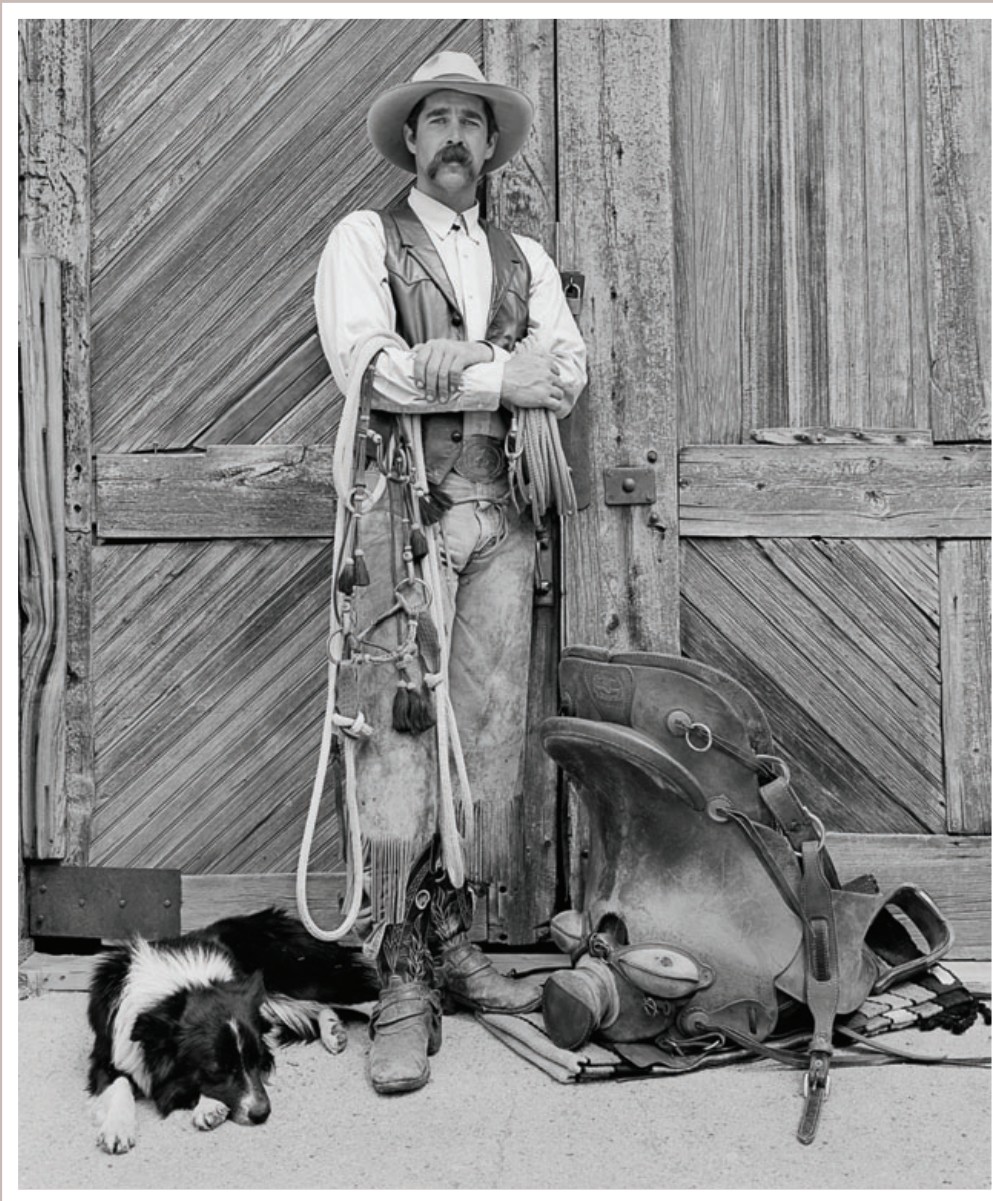
Two photographic artists, with separate visions of the same subject.

By Charles W. Guildner and Robb Kendrick

Robb Kendrick and I have a similar passion for creating photographic images of people who are living very traditional lives. We both use a large-format, 8-by-10 camera. I use silver-based sheet film and silver-based, light-sensitive printing paper processed in the wet darkroom at home, usually several months after the film was exposed. Robb uses the tedious and labor-intensive tintype process, which requires that the entire “coating” and processing equipment

accompany him wherever he travels. The entire process is accomplished on-site with toxic materials, requiring very careful handling.

On several occasions, Robb and I have made portraits of the same individual, at different times and locations. We thought it would be interesting to present these images side by side. *RANGE* magazine has given us this forum.—*Charles W. Guildner*



*Justin Bradley, Brewster, Nebraska © Charles W. Guildner
Justin has been a cowboy all his life and is steeped in the tradition of cowboying and ranching. He grew up in Cheyenne, Oklahoma, and moved to Brewster, Nebraska, in 1988. Justin works at the Rhoades Ranch. He lives with his wife Tracy and sons Blayne, JT and Zack.*

In 2005 I started a project for *National Geographic* to document working cowboys from Mexico to Canada using the tintype process, an antiquated process dating from 1856. Having seen some of Chuck Guildner's fine work from Nebraska, I contacted him to see if he would be kind enough to share his contacts in that region. He was extremely helpful, thoughtful and generous. This is not a matter to take lightly because photographers work hard to build relationships and trust with their subjects.

Arriving in Nebraska, I knew I was not only representing myself and *National Geographic*, but also Chuck Guildner. Not that I had any worries, but the responsibility not to blow it for Chuck in the future was there somewhere in the back of my mind. Chuck and I

have become friends and this package that *RANGE* is presenting was his idea. Thanks, Chuck!

Comparing the images that two people make using two different techniques is fascinating and shows how differently images can be rendered. In the end the trust given to the photographer by the subjects is evident in both groups of images—or at least I feel it is. I believe the genuine interest, curiosity, respect and compassion that Chuck and I share for those who live this life is felt by everyone we photograph and in turn they allow us to enter into their lives like a trusted friend. I am a student of human nature and love interacting with cowboys who are passionate about what they do and exhibit values that still mean something today.—*Robb Kendrick*



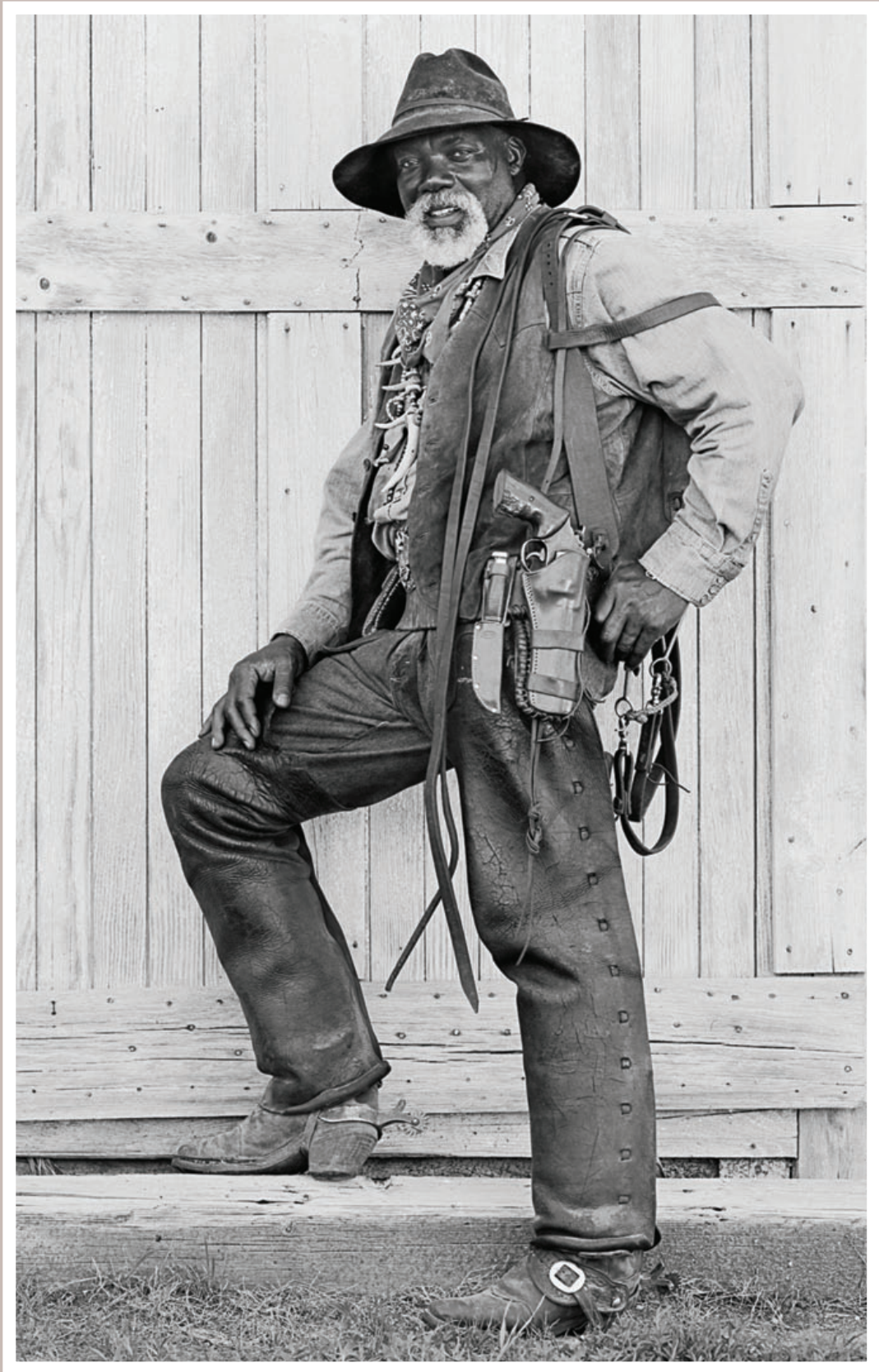
Justin Bradley, Brewster, Nebraska © Robb Kendrick



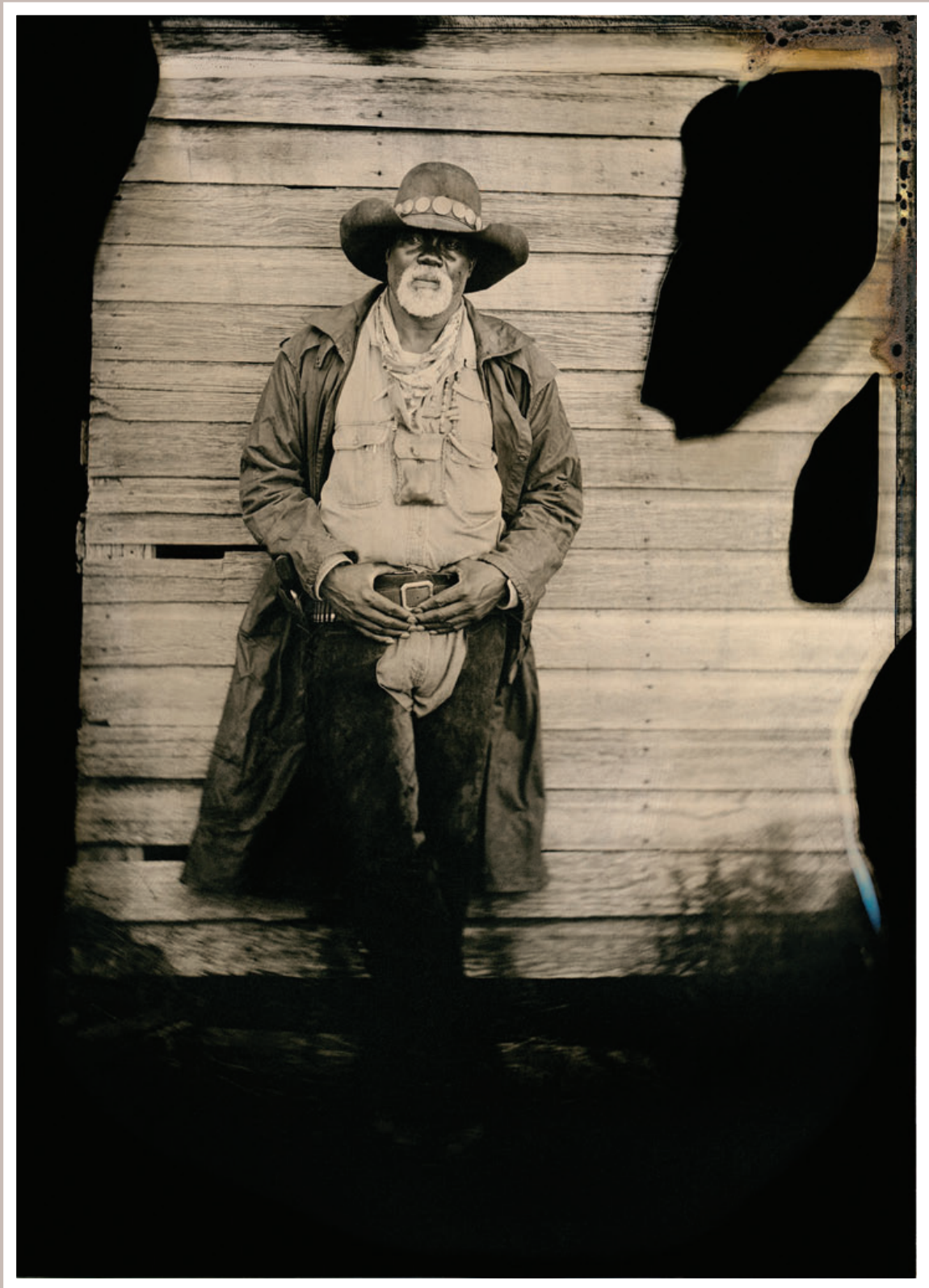
Katherine and Mary Ann Kelly, Atlanta, Nebraska © Charles W. Guildner
Katherine, age 18, and Mary Ann, age 15, in this photograph, are the daughters of Thomas and Arlene Kelly. The Kelly family operates the Cocklebur Ranch near the old pioneer town of Rock Falls, near Atlanta, Nebraska. The two girls are excellent riders and cow hands. They ride bareback much of the time and are also trick ropers. Homeschooled, now they are both married with children. Their dad is interested in history of the West and likes to maintain many of the traditions of ranch life, including using a team for mowing hay and other ranch work. I first photographed Katherine and Mary Ann in 1997.



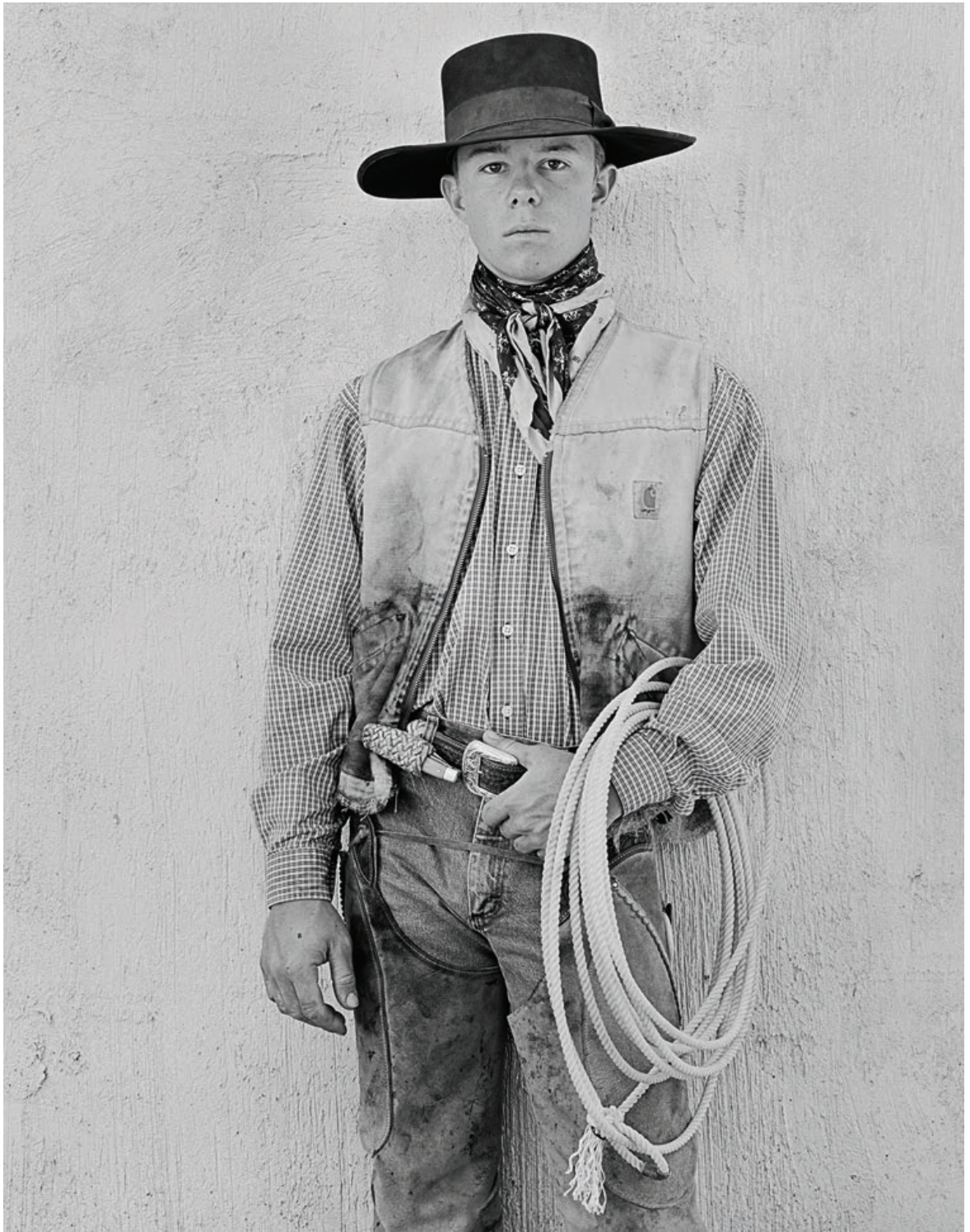
Mary Ann and Katherine Kelly, Atlanta, Nebraska © Robb Kendrick



Jim Myrick, Calloway, Nebraska © Charles W. Guildner
Jim is a soft-spoken, gentle giant. His father was Cherokee, black and Caucasian, his mother was black. He grew up in Marianna, Florida, and attended A&M University, an all-black college. He worked as a civilian at Travis Air Force Base, then enlisted in the Army in 1966 and served in Vietnam. Upon discharge, he went to San Francisco City College to study criminal justice. He worked for 12 years in law enforcement then shifted gears and drove a truck for eight more. "While driving across country," he says, "the state of Nebraska screamed and howled for me." He moved to Calloway, bought a pickup, trailer, horse and saddle. "I hung out my shingle, Cowboy For Hire, started cowboying and never looked back."



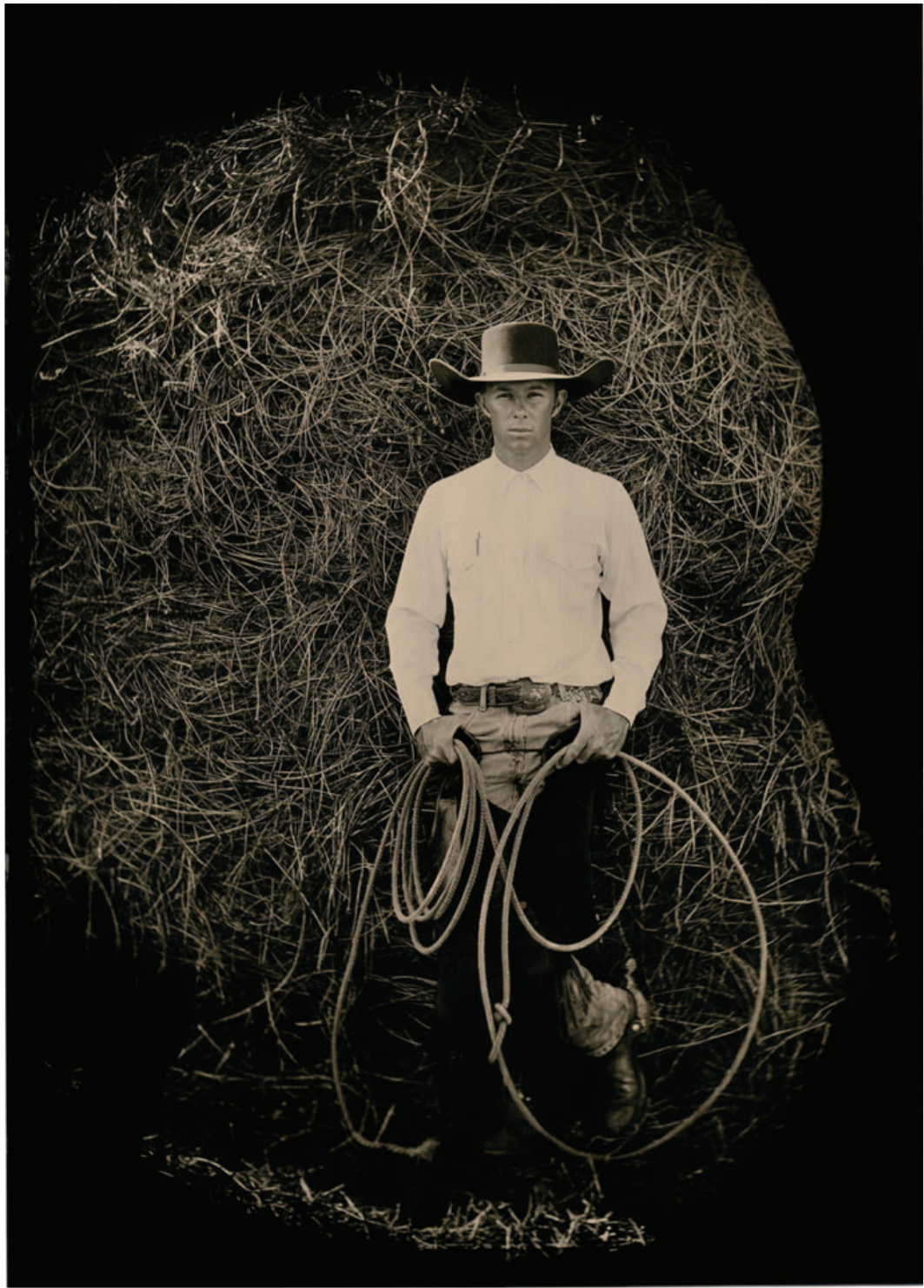
Jim Myrick, Calloway, Nebraska © Robb Kendrick



Jesse Hefner, Arthur, Nebraska © Charles W. Guildner

The first year I met Jess, he was 17 and green as grass, unsure of himself but with a passion to learn the skills of the cowboy. When I met him again a year later I made this portrait. He had learned fast, becoming a man and most capable ranch hand.

Charles W. Guildner lives in Puget Sound, Washington. He set out to photograph the landscape and lives of the people of the rural heartland. His "Lives of Tradition" negatives are being archived at the Great Plains Art Museum in Lincoln, Nebraska. There is a permanent exhibit of his work on display at the Durham Museum in Omaha, Nebraska. To learn more about his photography, please refer to www.guildner-photo.com.



Jesse Hefner, Arthur, Nebraska © Robb Kendrick

Robb Kendrick lives in Texas. These photographs are from a series of tintypes, many of which are included in Robb Kendrick's "Still: Cowboys at the Start of the Twenty-First Century," published by University of Texas Press. Signed copies are available at www.robbkendrick.com. Unsigned copies are available at www.amazon.com or www.utexas.edu/utpress/books/kensti.html.