



The Museum of the Plains Indian Presents

NOOMOHTSIISTAAPITAPI SSTANIINIKI:

This is the Life of Cecile Black Boy

In 1938, the Federal Writers Project, a program under the Works Progress Administration, instituted the Montana Writers Project. As part of this project, Cecile Black Boy (*Sstaniiniki*, "Kills-Instead"), a member of the Small Robes Band of the Blackfeet, collected hundreds of stories of the *Niitsitapi* (Real People) between 1939 and 1942.

Commonly known as the Blackfoot, the *Niitsitapi* are comprised of several tribes – *Amskaapi Piikani* (Southern Piegan or Blackfeet), *Apatohsi Piikani* (North Piegan), *Kainai* (Many Chiefs or Blood), and the *Siksika* (Blackfoot) – whose traditional homeland is the Montana and Alberta, Canada, region.

Traditionally, the *Niitsitapi* people's stories drew from, and were based on, their experiences in the homeland. *Sstaniiniki* drew from her extensive knowledge of the Blackfoot language and history as she worked to capture and retain these stories for future generations. Many of her grandmother's stories are included in the exhibition, as are those from other members of the larger Blackfoot community. The painted lodge designs tell these traditional stories.

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Exhibit: MARCH 31, 2017-JUNE 1, 2017

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