

# PATTERN

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FASHIONING A COMMUNITY

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## Eye Candy

Indy photographer finds sweet inspiration in pop culture of the past and slice-of-life scenes from the present.

**Faith Blackwell** (<https://faithblackwell.smugmug.com/>) has an eye for color and a keen knack for tapping into joyful memories. Celebrating the sweet innocence of her youth, this local commercial photographer combines fine art with fashion, fun, and kicky keepsakes. Her digital images often cast adult models in playful poses with sugar-buzzed props.

“I was an ’80s baby, and I grew up in that era with all the old-school candy—the Ring Pop, Nerds, Now And Laters, and Reece’s Pieces,” she explains. “I always say that one of my best sources of inspiration is Willy Wonka.”

In addition to confections, Blackwell incorporates into her work the treasured toys and trinkets from her grade-school days. Think: Pez Dispensers, View-Masters, retro lunchboxes, and Nintendo-type games.

“When people visit my studio(<http://www.stutzartists.com/artistBlackwell.html>), their general reaction is happiness, and they often say things like, ‘Oh, I remember this!’ And they remark on how whimsical it is,” she says.



This weekend Blackwell will be among the more than 60 participants of the Stutz Artists Open House Silver Anniversary(<https://www.stutzartists.com/openhouse.html>). Her show will feature all new work. And to spice things up, she plans to offer guests a dual experience. Half of her studio space will display colorful prints and samples of custom products from her sweets-inspired "Gimme Sugar 2.0" collection. The other half of her studio will highlight her latest black-and-white images--from bustling NYC to familiar scenes around Indy.

Having worked as a full-time commercial photographer for the past eight years, Blackwell is perhaps best known for her portraiture and event pics. But during the last year, she's developed a fondness for street photography, which she's excited to share. And though incorporating it into her business is new, the art form comes second nature to Blackwell.

"I'm the type person who likes to roam around with my camera, especially when I'm visiting a new city," she says. "And the same goes for when I get frustrated, I just take my camera walk." Her quiet strolls sometimes lead to incredible images, some of which she doesn't even notice until she prints them. Perfect lighting and posing aren't part of the equation with the serendipity of street photography. In fact, her subjects typically don't realize they're being photographed. But that's part of the attraction—capturing artful images as they occur organically in day-to-day life.



*Follow Faith Blackwell on her social media:*

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