

Purdue University Galleries

Educational Ideas and Activities 2004-2005

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Lasting Impressions

8/30/04-10/10/04 Stewart Center Gallery

*Prints from the permanent collection by contemporary
Native American artists*



Did you know?

- The proceeds of *Lasting Impressions* will benefit the Visiting Artists and Scholars Program at the School of Art, College of Fine Arts, University of Arizona.
- The portfolio of ten prints was printed by master printmaker, Jack Lemon.
- Each sheet in the portfolio is 20-by-26 inches.
- The collection of prints is limited to an edition of 32 numbered portfolios and 3 sets of loose prints for a total of 35 numbered images.
- Artists within the collection are celebrated Native Americans coming from tribe affiliations all over the United States.

In the Gallery suggestions for questions and focus

Standards 11 and 12 are met by physically going to the gallery and discussing the space and the people who set up the exhibition

Focus on Geography- standards 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 13

- The ten artists whose work is shown in *Lasting Impressions* are from different parts of the United States.
 - Joe Feddersen is affiliated with the Colville culture in the state of Washington.
 - Edgar Heap of Birds is affiliated with Cheyenne/Arapaho in Kansas.
 - G. Peter Jemison is affiliated with the Seneca Nation in New York.
 - Truman Lowe is affiliated with Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) in Wisconsin.
 - Mario Martinez is affiliated with Yaqui in Phoenix, Arizona.
 - Duane Stick is affiliated with Ho-Chunk (Winnebago)/Mesquakie (Sac/Fox) in Iowa.
 - Jaune Quick-To-See Smith is affiliated with Flathead Salish, French Cree and Shoshone heritage in Montana.
 - Kay Walkingstick is affiliated with Cherokee in Oklahoma (originally born in New York).
 - Emmi Whitehorse is affiliated with Navajo in New Mexico.
 - Melanie Yazzie is affiliated with Navajo in Arizona.

How does their tribe affiliation and geographic location affect their subject matter?

Focus on Artist Intentions/Style – standards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

- All of the artwork from *Lasting Impressions* portfolio are prints, and most are lithographic prints. The only exception is Truman Lowe's woodcut image. Knowing that Lowe primarily does sculpture, how do you think that affected his decision to create a woodcut?
- Look at the images in the exhibit. The art varies in subject matter, such as nature, trickster tales, stylized animals, symbols, family, and geometric shapes and varies in content, such as revealing social commentaries and complexities, examining stereotypes, identifying cultural identity, telling a story, exploring myths, and the exploration of the landscape. How does the subject matter or form relate to the content or meaning of the work?

In the Classroom *standards 7, 8, 9, 10*

- Research the Artists Each of the artists represented in the exhibition warrants separate study. Each artist has such a unique approach to their work. Analyze a group of images by each artist. How can their style be defined? Which artist do you feel most connected to? Create a work in the same style as your selected artist.
- Signs Edgar Heap of Birds creates public art consisting of signs and social messages. Use words to create a sign symbolizing social concerns. For inspiration, view more of Heap of Birds' work at the website listed below.
- Symbols Many of the artists use symbols related to their culture in their artworks. What are some symbols in your culture? Create a work based upon the use of those symbols.
- Geometric Landscapes Use monotype or collographs to create a highly patterned, geometric landscape in the style of Joe Feddersen.
- Words and Images Jaune Quick-To-See Smith uses a collage format to her work to depict social issues and confront stereotypes. Combine text from magazines or newspapers with images drawn or collaged to create a socially relevant and meaningful work.
- Landscape Diptychs Kay Walkingstick creates diptychs, or two-paneled works joined together, of abstract and realistically depicted landscapes, revealing the archetypical and visual qualities from the environment. Create a landscape diptych charged in color revealing the realistically visual and your abstract interpretation.

Interdisciplinary Connections *standard 13*

- Locate each artist's home state and tribe affiliation on a map of the United States. How does the geography and landscape affect their depictions of art?
- Some of the works, such as Duane Stick's, examine the role of the coyote as trickster in storytelling. How did the coyote become the trickster? Analyze myths and legends for more information regarding the role of trickster.

Selected Bibliography

American Indian Myths and Legends, selected and edited by Richard Erdes and Alfonso Ortiz. Parthenon Books, New York; 1984

Includes dozens of stories from a variety of tribes, including a section on Coyote Trickster Tales

Symbols of Native America, by Heike Owasu. Sterling Publisher Company, Inc. New York; 1999.

Contains symbols and their meanings found in artwork by various tribes throughout America

Websites:

<http://www.heapofbirds.com/> Edgar Heap-of-Birds site, includes statements, teaching principles, contact information, and examples of his work

<http://www.peterjemison.com/> G. Peter Jemison site, includes biographical information, contact information, and examples of his work

<http://www.eiteljorg.org/> Eiteljorg Museum of Indian and Western Art site, includes information of Native American artists and includes teacher resources, such as workshop information and lesson plans

<http://www.arts.arizona.edu/lastingimpressions/purpose.html> Information about the portfolio of *Lasting Impressions*