

WESTERN ART

The American West inspired all the artists in the Whitney Gallery of Western Art. Their artwork tells stories about the West's wildlife, landscapes, people, and events.



8.04.3 (Detail)

5:



Frederic Remington was an illustrator, sculptor and painter. His inspiration grew when visiting the West, but he created his artwork in his New York studio. Remington told stories of American Indians, military, and horses. This influenced how the rest of America saw the West. He collected the objects in his studio, using them as models and for inspiration.

REMINGTON STUDIO

2:



WONDERS OF WILDLIFE

The mountain lion in this painting looks real. In his painting, artist Tom Palmore painted lots of details to make the animal seem alive. Though we cannot touch the painting or feel the texture, we get the feeling that this animal is soft and warm because of the artist's attention to each hair and whisker.



4.77

1:

Bierstadt painted *Geysers of Yellowstone* in 1881 after traveling to Yellowstone National Park by stagecoach. He wanted to capture the landscape of Yellowstone in a way that made people want to visit. Anne Coe created *Out to Lunch* to express the negative effects of too many visitors to a park. Coe is a contemporary artist, who is still alive today, and Bierstadt is an historic artist.

WESTERN EXPERIENCE



2.93.2

3: FIRST PEOPLE OF THE WEST

George Catlin was one of the first artists to paint Plains Indians. As he traveled five times to the West, he visited tribes that inspired him. His paintings, like *Crow Chief*, show tribal leadership. While he did paint everyday life, Catlin also focused on important people in their finest clothes.



7.80

4:

The story W.H.D. Koerner tells in *Madonna of the Prairie* is about a beautiful and happy heroine, traveling in a covered wagon across the country for a better life. However, many men and women who traveled on the prairie faced hardships such as starvation, danger, and even death. In contrast, artists often painted men as strong, independent, and adventurous.

4: HEROES & LEGENDS



25.77

5

2

3


1



NOW IT'S YOUR TURN: WHAT DO YOU THINK?

JUST THE FACTS

What is the difference between contemporary and historic artwork?
Do **you** prefer contemporary or historic artwork?

Compare the image of the *Madonna of the Prairie* to this image of Bill Schenck's *Flight from Destiny*. 

How did the artists portray the heroes in each painting?

How was Frederic Remington able to create his artwork in his studio instead of out West?

Compare the painting styles of Tom Palmore and George Catlin. How are they similar? How are they different?



1.95

TELL YOUR SIDE OF THE STORY

What area or object of the Whitney Gallery of Western Art was **your** favorite and why?

Was there one area or object that **you** had not thought about before visiting the gallery? What did **you** learn?



LET'S MAKE IT RELEVANT

Imagine being a part of one of the paintings **you** learned about. What would it smell, feel, sound, look, and even taste like?

You have just been assigned the task of promoting or advertising the West through a painting. What would **you** include in your creation?



THE BIG QUESTION

If **you** were to paint or sculpt the West. What would **you** include in **your** story and why?



THANK YOU

Sinclair 
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