

Artists throughout history have been storytellers. From cave paintings to graphic novels, people have used art to communicate about the world around them.

Spend some time with an artwork that grabs your attention and ask yourself, what story is taking place? What do you think the artist was trying to communicate through the creation of this work of art?







The art of the American West is particularly well known for its ability of storytelling—each painting, each sculpture tells a specific narrative of life in the west. A reoccurring theme in many works by western artists is the creation of the west, a romance of what the west once was and the fantasies surrounding it. These dreams draw people to western art and tell us why these stories have such an enduring legacy.

Quote References found in exhibition:

William Frederick 'Buffalo Bill' Cody (2012). Buffalo Bill's Life Story: An Autobiography Courier Corporation

A Few Words from Mr. Remington, Collier's Weekly, March 18, 1905

President Theodore Roosevelt at the opening of John Brown Memorial Park, Osawatomie Kansas, August 31, 1910.

Edward Borein, Cowboy Artist Biography by Harold G. Davidson, 1974

The Charles M. Russell Book, The Life and Work of the Cowboy Artist, Biography by Harold McCracken, 1957



The American West conjures visions of cowboys, outlaws with six-shooters, and wide-open spaces to roam. Many were eager not just to experience it but to capture its beauty. Artworks from this time show just how wild, rugged, and breath-taking it could be.

How does Creating the West make you feel about life in the wild west?