



Shifting Perspectives: Card 4

Museum Education Department: Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College

Card 4

Shifting Perspectives: With some 15 million people unemployed during the [Great Depression](#) (more than 20 percent of the U.S. population at the time), Franklin D. Roosevelt instituted his “[New Deal](#)” programs to aid in recovery from the Great Depression; one was the [Works Progress Administration](#) (WPA). A BAA artist, George Biddle, helped convince the President to form a branch of the WPA to fund work programs in the arts. The WPA arts programs led to the later creation of the National Foundation of the Arts. Several BAA artists participated in the WPA, mostly creating murals in public spaces across the United States. Still reeling from the Great Depression, many WPA-sponsored artists remained committed to social realist styles and agendas. Rather than rebel against the Establishment, WPA muralists used their state-sponsored public platform to capture and codify American identities for future generations.

What qualities in this art might have contributed to successful WPA work? Are there narratives? Which seem easier to understand? How do they represent a strong sense of Nationalism, especially as they relate to local history?

Use these artworks to help answer your question. You can access these works by clicking on the links below. You may not need to use all the works; search the [O’Beautiful eMuseum package](#) to see other works in the exhibition that might also address your question.

Portrait of a Red Headed Woman by Henry Varnum Poor	Village and Mountains, Colorado by Paul Parker	Early Morning Cripple Creek, Colorado by Ernest Lawson	Moonlight, Garden of the Gods by Robert Reid
The Dark Village by Jenne Magafan	The Welder by Kenneth Evett	Arroyo Near Tesque by Willard Ayer Nash	Untitled (Landscape) by Tabor Utley
Mountains by David Fredenthal	Russian Refugees by George Vander Sluis	Meadows In The Valley by Ethel Magafan	Come Spring by Peppino G. Mangravitte
Austin Bluffs by Archie Musick	Don Quixote And Sancho by Boardman Robinson	Dance of El Tepozteco by Jean Charlot	Polo At Broadmoor by Randall Davey
Evening Star Mine by Ernestine Parsons	Forms from Nature by Ellen O’Brien	Africa Suite #2 9/150 by Robert Motherwell	Ghost Town by Otis Dozier

