



## Shifting Perspectives: Card 5

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

### Card 5

**Shifting Perspectives:** In 1913, the provocative New York Armory Show introduced European modernist styles such as Cubism, Constructivism, and Futurism to American artists. However, still reeling from the [Great Depression](#), many [Works Progress Administration](#) (WPA)-sponsored artists remained committed to social realist styles and agendas. Rather than rebel against the Establishment, WPA muralists used their state-sponsored public platforms to capture and codify American identities for future generations. Abstraction was not a European invention. European artists such as Pablo Picasso and Paul Gauguin found inspiration in abstract designs from African, Oceanic, Asian, Islamic, and Indigenous cultures. Through these appropriated motifs are commonplace in European art, artists from the originating cultures are almost completely excluded from the narratives and canons of Western art.

*What do you notice about the similarities and differences in the artistic styles and subject matter across the exhibition?*

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.

<a href="#">Forms from Nature</a> by Ellen O'Brien	<a href="#">The Dark Village</a> by Jenne Magafan	<a href="#">Dance of El Tepozteco</a> by Jean Charlot	<a href="#">Africa Suite #2 9/150</a> by Robert Motherwell
<a href="#">Africa Suite 5 9/150</a> by Robert Motherwell	<a href="#">Meadows In The Valley</a> by Ethel Magafan	<a href="#">Elegy Fragment I</a> by Robert Motherwell	<a href="#">May Linen Suite #3</a> by Robert Motherwell
<a href="#">Summer Light Series: Harvest in Scotland</a> by Robert Motherwell	<a href="#">Portrait of a Red Headed Woman</a> by Henry Varnum Poor	<a href="#">The Welder</a> by Kenneth Evett	<a href="#">Village and Mountains, Colorado</a> by Paul Parker
<a href="#">Ghost Town</a> by Otis Dozier	<a href="#">Mountains</a> by David Fredenthal	<a href="#">Don Quixote And Sancho</a> by Boardman Robinson	<a href="#">Arroyo Near Tesque</a> by Willard Ayer Nash
<a href="#">Untitled (Landscape)</a> by Tabor Utley	<a href="#">Austin Bluffs</a> by Archie Musick	<a href="#">Come Spring</a> by Peppino G. Mangravitte	<a href="#">Russian Refugees</a> by George Vander Sluis