When I Remember I See Red
Art Analysis

INTRODUCTION – The Autry Museum of the American West is a museum located in Griffith Park in Los Angeles, California. The Autry Museum has thousands of artifacts in its collection. These artifacts include documents, objects, and artwork that tell stories about the diverse peoples of the American West. Artwork comes in many different forms. The medium used to create an artwork ranges from drawings and mixed media to paintings and sculptures. Learn about some of these types of artwork by looking at the images and reading the descriptions below.

**Basket:** a 3D artwork created by weaving plants and sometimes other materials together

**Ceramic:** a 3D artwork made of material like clay that is hard from heat

**Collage:** an artwork created by attaching various materials to a surface that is flat

**Drawing:** a 2D picture of something using chalk, crayons, markers, pencils, or pens

**Mixed media:** an artwork that incorporates more than one type of medium

**Painting:** a 2D picture of something using paint

**Photograph:** a 2D picture of something taken with a camera

**Print:** a 2D work of art created by copying a picture from a surface with ink to another material

**Sculpture:** a 3D artwork made out of materials that are used in an interesting way

**Video:** a recording of visual images that may include audio

---

**Glossary**

**Collection:** a group of items that have been collected to study or to show to people

**Medium:** the materials used to create artwork; the various types of artistic expression

**2D:** something that is flat and has length and width

**3D:** something that is solid and has length, width, and height
PART 1 - Artifacts can be made available to people in multiple ways including exhibitions. The Autry Museum offers many different types of exhibitions that display artifacts such as artwork at the museum and online. Contemporary artwork made by artists from Native Californian communities, and other Native American communities, who have lived and worked in California are part of an exhibition called When I Remember I See Red: American Indian Art and Activism in California. The artwork in this exhibition either comes from the Autry Museum’s collection or has been borrowed from other organizations or people.

The artists featured in When I Remember I See Red: American Indian Art and Activism in California have generally created their artwork as a form of activism to reverse erasure and invisibility through cultural resistance and renewal. Learn about the culture, history, identity, and traditions of different Native American communities along with the injustices they have faced from the stories these artists tell through their artwork. Start by analyzing a piece of artwork from this exhibition. Take a moment to look closely at the artwork below.
**PART 2**

After looking closely at the artwork from **PART 1**, describe what you see by answering the questions in the chart below. Write your answers in the space provided or on a separate document.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ART ANALYSIS QUESTIONS</th>
<th>MY DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What type of artwork do you see? (basket, ceramic, collage, drawing, mixed media, painting, photograph, print, sculpture, video, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What colors do you see in the artwork?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What shapes do you see in the artwork?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What images (animals, people, places, plants, things, etc.) do you see in the artwork?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What do your eyes focus on in the artwork? Why?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What else do you notice about the artwork?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PART 3 – Art tells stories. Make a **hypothesis** about what story you think the artist is trying to tell others through the artwork from **PART 1**. Write your hypothesis in the space below or on a separate document.

---

**Glossary**

**Hypothesis**: an educated guess
When I Remember I See Red

Art Analysis

PART 4 – Prove or disprove your hypothesis by reading the object label below. This object label provides detailed information about the artwork from PART 1.

**Earth’s Tears of Rebirthing**

2010

Lyn Risling

Hupa/Karuk/Yurok, Born 1950

Acrylic on canvas

Gift of Dr. Loren G. Lipson, M.D., Autry Museum of the American West; 2018.9.1

In this painting, images of environmental devastation include a parched earth of tree stumps, fish skeletons, and a deer skull. The eyes are embedded into the land and sky, suggesting these forms are both sentient and ever watchful. By depicting an ecological apocalypse, the artist conveys a message found in many Native American stories—that it is human beings that have the responsibility to save the Earth.

**Glossary**

**Apocalypse**: a great disaster; a sudden and very bad event that causes much fear, loss, or destruction

**Donor**: people who give something to other people or organizations

**Embedded**: inserted or placed into something

**Parched**: dry, thirsty

**Sentient**: able to feel, see, hear, smell, or taste
## PART 5

Now that you have learned more about the story that the artist is telling through the artwork by reading the object label in **PART 4**, answer the questions about the object label in the chart below. Write your answers in the space provided or on a separate document.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OBJECT LABEL QUESTIONS</th>
<th>MY ANSWERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who is the artist?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the title of the artwork?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What year was the artwork created?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the artwork’s medium?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the story (main message) that the artist is</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>communicating through their artwork?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PART 6 – Learn more about the *When I Remember I See Red: American Indian Art and Activism in California* exhibition by visiting the Autry Museum’s website at [theautry.org/exhibitions/when-i-remember-i-see-red](http://theautry.org/exhibitions/when-i-remember-i-see-red). Read the *About the Exhibition* description. Then write what you learned about the exhibition in the space below or on a separate document.
**When I Remember I See Red**

**Art Analysis**

**PART 7** - Next, look at the artwork under the *When I Remember I See Red* video by clicking on the different sections: *First Light, You Are On Native Land, Interconnectedness, Native Knowledge, California’s Genocide, Cultural Inspirations,* and *The World Is A Gift: Remembering Frank LaPena.* Scroll through the different pieces of artwork under the section descriptions. Select one piece of artwork that you would like to analyze by clicking on the artwork.

Without looking at the object label online, take a moment to look closely at the artwork you chose. Then describe the artwork by answering the questions in the chart below. Write your answers in the space provided or on a separate document.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ART ANALYSIS QUESTIONS</th>
<th>MY DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Which section is the artwork you chose from? <em>(First Light, You Are On Native Land, Interconnectedness, Native Knowledge, California’s Genocide, Cultural Inspirations, or The World Is A Gift: Remembering Frank LaPena)</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What type of artwork do you see? (basket, ceramic, collage, drawing, mixed media, painting, photograph, print, sculpture, video, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What colors do you see in the artwork?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What shapes do you see in the artwork?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What images (animals, people, places, plants, things, etc.) do you see in the artwork?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What do your eyes focus on in the artwork? Why?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What else do you notice about the artwork?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
When I Remember I See Red
Art Analysis

PART 8 – Art tells stories. Without reading the object label online, make a hypothesis about what story you think the artist is trying to tell others through this artwork. Write your hypothesis in the space below or on a separate document.
PART 9 – Learn more about the artwork by reading the object label online. Then answer the questions about the object label in the chart below. Write your answers in the space provided or on a separate document.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OBJECT LABEL QUESTIONS</th>
<th>MY ANSWERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who is the artist?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the title of the artwork?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What year was the artwork created?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the artwork’s medium?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What else did you learn about the artwork?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PART 10 – Create artwork that tells a story about the culture, history, identity, or traditions of one of your communities. You can also tell a story about the injustices your community has faced or faces. Plan your artwork before creating it by answering the questions in the chart below. Write detailed answers in the space provided or on a separate document.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARTWORK PLAN QUESTIONS</th>
<th>ANSWER EXAMPLES</th>
<th>MY ARTWORK PLAN ANSWERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Which one of your communities do you want to tell a story about through artwork?</td>
<td>Family community, Neighborhood community, Religious community, School community, Sports community, Other community</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What type of artwork will you create?</td>
<td>Basket, Ceramic, Collage, Drawing, Mixed media, Painting, Photograph, Print, Sculpture, Video</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What materials will you use to create your artwork?</td>
<td>Camera, Chalk, Clay, Colored pencils, Crayons, Glue, Ink, Markers, Music, Paint, Paintbrushes, Paper, Pens/Pencils, Tape, Other materials</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What story will your artwork tell about your community?</td>
<td>Culture, History, Identity, Injustices, Traditions, Other story</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What else will you include in your artwork?</td>
<td>Animals, Colors, People, Places, Plants, Shapes, Other things</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**When I Remember I See Red**  
**Art Analysis**

**PART 11** – Create your artwork using your plan from **PART 10**.

**PART 12** – After you create your artwork, write an object label that gives detailed information about your artwork using the **Object Label Format** below. You can also look at the *Earth’s Tears of Rebirthing* object label from **PART 4** to help you write your object label. Write your object label underneath **My Object Label** in the space below or on a separate document.

---

**Object Label Format**

*My artwork’s title*

Date my artwork was created

*My name*

*My artwork’s medium*

Write an artwork description explaining what your artwork is about.

**My Object Label**

________________________

________________________

________________________

________________________

________________________

________________________

- 12 -
**Resources**

**Images**

Basket by Linda Aguilar (Chumash). Coiled horsehair, decorated with beads, shells, bingo markers, and cut up credit and debit cards, 2013. Gift of Monica Jane Wyatt, Southwest Museum of the American Indian Collection, Autry Museum; 2013.27.1

*A Gift From California*, painting by Harry Fonseca (Nisenan Maidu/Hawaiian/Portuguese), acrylic and glitter on canvas, circa 1979. Autry Museum; 2016.10.9

Lithograph by Harry Fonseca (Nisenan Maidu/Hawaiian/Portuguese), 1979. Autry Museum; 2016.10.331

Southern Plains Indian ledger drawing, pencil and crayon on paper, circa 1882. General Charles McC. Reeve Collection, Autry Museum; 491.P.3441.11

*Earth’s Tears of Rebirthing*, painting by Lyn Risling (Hupa/Karuk/Yurok), acrylic on canvas, 2010. Gift of Loren G. Lipson, M.D., Autry Museum; 2018.9.1


*Lost Hills (Yokut) 10.19.16, from the Power Series*, panoramic photograph by Lewis deSoto (Cahuilla), 2016. Gift of Loren G. Lipson, M.D., Autry Museum; 2018.56.1.1

*Pima Sandwich*, mixed-media photograph by Richard Bluecloud Castaneda (Pima Maricopa from the Salt River Reservation). Archival pigment transfer on aluminum and mixed media, 2016. Purchase made possible by Loren G. Lipson, M.D., Autry Museum; 2017.34.1

*To the Discriminating Collector*, steel sculpture by Gerald Clarke, Jr. (Cahuilla), 2002. Gift of Loren G. Lipson, M.D., Autry Museum; 2017.16.1

Video by Kristina Faragher, *Gaping Mouth*, 2006. Shot in Yosemite in 2006. The title of the work refers to the name first applied to the now-famous valley by its original residents. The Southern Miwok called the valley *awahni*, or “place like a gaping mouth.” Purchase courtesy of Kristina Faragher; original score by Mark Kozelek and special thanks to Curt Lemieux, Autry Museum; 2007.89.1

*3+ Years*, collage by Harry Fonseca (Nisenan Maidu/Hawaiian/Portuguese), undated, Autry Museum; 2016.10.213
Resources

Text


Do you want to see the artwork and object label that you created on our Instagram or Twitter?

Ask an adult to send the photograph, video, or a photograph of the artwork you created along with your name, your age, and your object label to outreach@theautry.org for a chance to be featured on our social media! Accepting work from artists of all ages. Must be 18-years or older to submit.