



CRAFT IN AMERICA

BUILDING A COLLECTION EDUCATION GUIDE

Review the following vocabulary to support your understanding of the media.

- Chicano (and Chicana) is a name for a member of a Mexican American cultural group. Not every Mexican American adopts the term. It was originally used as an insult. But Cheech Marin, and the artists whose work he collects, use the term with pride.
- Mi gente is Spanish for “my people.” Francisco Palomares uses this term when speaking about his paintings.
- A chongo is a hairstyle found in several cultures including Chicano and Navajo. In the video Yolanda González adds them to the women’s heads she is sculpting and says they “are like pigtailed or buns.”
- A facsimile is a copy or a reproduction of something original. Your copies of your collection will be facsimiles of the original object.
- Juxtapose means to place two things next to each other. It is also an art technique that can create interesting meanings. Cheech Marin points this out in the painting of the piñata juxtaposed with the traditional landscape.
- Collection/collector - A collection is a group of objects that have been purposely gathered and usually have something in common. A collector is someone who collects particular objects that they are interested in.
- Criterion/criteria A criterion is a standard or requirement (singular.) Criteria is the plural form. For this lesson, your criteria could be that your collection will include only art made by Chicano artists, only paintings, and only works made in the last ten years. Each one of those is a separate criterion.
- Curate/curator - To curate means to select and arrange a collection or objects. A curator is a person who does this. Curating can be an occupation and a career. For example, museums hire curators to select and arrange work for viewing and for special shows.
- A display is a group of items arranged and organized in a special way. It may or may not be intended for others to see.
- To present a collection means to share it with other viewers. For example, you might display your artwork at home but then present it to others at an art show.
- A pedestal is a structure, usually of table height, used to display an object. Pedestals can be cylinder shaped or have flat surfaces. They can be plain such as a simple, tall white box or very decorative.
- A gallery is a place that features art for sale. It may look like a museum in the way the artworks are displayed and labeled. A gallery may represent certain artists, in other words sell the artists’ work for them.
- An opening at a museum or gallery is the first day that an exhibit is shared for the public to view. There may be special refreshments or entertainment.