



CRAFT IN AMERICA

BUILDING A COLLECTION EDUCATION GUIDE

Worksheet 1: Building a Collection Teacher's Guide

"Take me where you will, oh obsession!"—Cheech Marin

1. *What do you think Cheech means by the above quote? What does it say about his collecting?*
He is excited by collecting art, and finding new pieces to add to his collection. He sort of jokes about it, as though he can't stop collecting.
2. *What are Cheech Marin's criteria for choosing the works in his collection?*
One criterion for Cheech's collection is that the art is made by Chicano artists. Another is that he has to really like it, or even love it. He says, "I fell in love with this right away" and also "I generally only buy something that has been haunting my dreams." He also points to specific things he likes about various works, using words like playful and different. He describes a "hand to canvas kind of painting." That could refer to being able to see the brushstrokes as evidence of being painted by hand.
3. *Cheech Marin has a personal connection to his collection of artworks. How would you describe that connection?*
Cheech states he is Chicano, and what that means. He is proud of his Chicano heritage. So he is familiar with the cultural references in many of the works. He says "This is our neighborhood, these are the people in our neighborhoods." Artist Francisco Palomares refers to "mi gente," which means "my people" referring to the Chicano connections and perspectives that Francisco paints and that Cheech collects.
4. *Cheech Marin is enthusiastic when he talks about the artworks in his collection. List some evidence of his enthusiasm.*
The quote above about "obsession" is one example. He says "Adios!" to the sculptured figure at his house, as though it is a friend. When he talks about the girl interacting with the enormous mural, he sounds happy and says, "It was a remarkable interaction with art, maybe the most remarkable I've ever seen."
5. *In his role as a collector and a buyer of artworks, Cheech Marin has some influence with artists. Artist Francisco Palomares says this: "The part that collectors play is what gives an artist inspiration, resources, affirmations, opportunities; but it's also giving you emotional kind of refueling to give you that confidence; that they're willing to put value into what you have been dedicating your life to."*
Circle the things in that statement that you believe apply to Cheech Marin. Ask questions about any you don't understand.
Evidence can be found in the video for all of these as Cheech talks about and talks to artists. He is an enthusiastic supporter of their work.