



Karl Bodmer, *The Travellers Meeting with Minatarre Indians near Fort Clark*, from *Voyage dans l'intérieur de l'Amérique du Nord*, 1832-1834, Hand colored aquatint, 1832-1834

Now available through Art Bridges:

The American West and the Artist-Explorer Tradition

For many in the nineteenth century, the West was a mythical frontier full of possibility, danger, and discovery. Artists like Karl Bodmer (Swiss, 1809-1893), George Catlin (American, 1796-1872), and Peter Rindisbacher (Swiss, 1806-1834) set about on expedition-like journeys with the goal to document foreign landscapes and inhabitants that they viewed as inevitably vanishing or irrevocably changing. These romantic depictions of the environment and Indigenous peoples provide a glimpse into a constructed reality that speaks of Western expansion and Manifest Destiny.

This exhibition features works on paper by Bodmer, Catlin, and Rindisbacher that provide insight into the places and peoples these artist-explorers encountered during a time of rapid change. Each artist's composition, though romanticized, gives insight into the great diversity of Indigenous peoples and the environment within which they lived at that time. While the subjects that Bodmer, Catlin, and Rindisbacher depicted did not cease to exist, these works act as a representation of how Euro-Americans viewed the West at a pivotal point in American history.

Organizer: [Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art](#)

Number of Objects: 25 - 30 works

Space Requirements: 600 – 1,000 sf

Supporting Material: Didactics and extended label text

Exhibition Costs: \$15,000 + Shipping for the 8-10 week run

Tour Duration: 2-3 venues at 8-10 weeks each

Tour Schedule

Available Summer 2021