

Discussion Questions

Before Viewing:

Students will watch a segment about the exhibition *Hearts of Our People: Native Women Artists*, exhibited at the Renwick Gallery, Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C. This exhibition explores the artistic achievements of Native women and features a variety of media such as beading, pottery and traditional materials made by Native American women artists.

As they watch the video have students consider the following:

1. What was the purpose of the exhibition?
2. How does it showcase the vision and voices of Native American women artists?

After Viewing:

1. Have you ever seen an exhibition of Native American art? How is this exhibition similar to or different from exhibitions you have seen? What makes it special?
2. Describe what you saw. What struck you as important about this exhibition?
3. Did you personally connect with an artwork from the exhibition? If yes, explain why.
4. How does the exhibition give voice to and show Native American women's contribution over time?
5. How is collaboration an important part of this exhibition? How does this collaboration reflect Democracy?
6. Describe the Iroquois confederacy. How did the Iroquois nation influence our Democratic system? In what U.S. document can you find some of the Iroquois principles?
7. What is the importance of the Women's Nomination Belt? What role did women play in decision-making for leadership roles in Native American nations?
8. How do you think this exhibition might impact Native American who see it? Please explain. How do you think this exhibition might impact non-Native Americans who see it? Please explain your thinking.
9. What kind of exhibition could you curate to show how Democracy comes alive in your own community? What kinds of objects might you include?
10. If you had to describe the exhibition to someone who could not see it, what words would you use?



CRAFT IN AMERICA

DEMOCRACY EPISODE

11. Why do you think this segment about the *Hearts of Our People* exhibition is included in the Craft in America episode titled, *Democracy*?
12. If you could ask the co-curators a question about the exhibition, what would you ask?