An Early Indian Rodeo

Indians from other reservations arrive in three Overland touring cars to attend a Lakota rodeo held by Standing Bear. Many of Amiotte’s forebears are in attendance, including his great-grandparents and his grandmother Christina (center). Christina’s future husband George Mesteth, an Indian cowboy known for his talents as a bronc rider, appears in a photographic portrait on the left, and on his horse in the center. Several rodeo scenes fill the middle ground, in front of a house and tipi that are reminiscent of Standing Bear’s spread on White Horse Creek, with the buttes behind. On the right, a horse is draped with a star quilt- perhaps one of the gifts that will be used to honor the rodeo prizewinners at the evening Give-Away. The visitors in the car on the left have been honored by such a gift, and their cars float in a sea of golden sunflowers.

Excerpt from the essay "Giving Voice to the Ancestors Through Art: Hybridity, Memory, and Imagination in Arthur Amiotte's Collage Series" written by Janet Catherine Berlo.