Different Worlds

Three different epistemological systems are examined in *Different Worlds*. The top half of the canvas is covered by an engraving of a seventeenth-century European map, which the artist bought in a French flea market, representing the world of western science and rationalist inquiry – and the limits of its knowledge regarding the western hemisphere. Standing Bear’s Sun Dance figures fill the bottom half of the canvas. Notably, no Sun Dance pole is pictured here. Instead, upper and lower registers are linked by a spinal column depicting aspects of Christian praxis. Out of a root form derived from one of Amiotte’s earlier textile works rises a base featuring conventional figures representing the New World.

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.