Skinner’s Satin

The Lakota vests depicted here are from the collection of the Haffenreffer Museum; on the right is a hand-colored photograph of “Baby Boy Pretty Bird” (as Amiotte’s inscription reads). These collages are beguiling for their seemingly naïve juxtaposition of old business and new, Lakota world versus white world, tradition versus commerce. But as Amiotte has observed, in naivete there is wisdom; moreover, humor can mask astute and shrewd pronouncements on culture change.

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.