The Visit

*The Visit* features a Lakota couple modeled on figures in the Standing Bear muslin in the collection of the Museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society. They have arrived to inspect the fine touring car parked in front of the log house of the family in the central photograph. This 1919 image depicts Standing Bear, his wife Louise, and two of their granddaughters. In a typical nineteenth-century Plains artistic convention of simultaneous visual narrative, the couple drawn at right appears again at left, seated in the touring car. Standing Bear and Louise were prosperous, due to their landholdings and their entrepreneurial skills. Here Amiotte imagines Standing Bear “dreaming” his ancestors into the present in order to witness the many changes in Lakota life. Amiotte says, “In an imaginary reunion, they dismount their steeds and appreciatively sit in the new horse-power machine belonging to a new generation.”

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