Wounded Knee, 1988

By the late 1980s, Lakota people were considering how they would commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the 1890 massacre at Wounded Knee on the Pine Ridge reservation. Here the artist began with a well-known historic photograph of the soldiers and the mass grave at Wounded Knee. He reused one of his earlier paintings of a Lakota girl, inserting her upside down and bloodstained, facing the trench. Historic flyers announcing “Another Chance to Avoid the Draft” and “7th Ind. Cavalry” merged in the artist’s mind to mean “another chance for the Seventh Cavalry to massacre Indians – they failed in 1876 at the Little Big Horn.” Along the bottom, Amiotte used pictographs from the Oglala Roster of Chief Big Road, as he had done in several other collages of that year; this time each Lakota man has blood coming from his mouth.

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