Title

Name of Student

Institution Affiliation

Course

One of the major art pieces chosen for this analysis is the photorealistic depiction of the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s. The photography captures various iconic scenes that capture the various events held in high esteem within the African American community (Google Arts and Culture, 2021). with African Americans have been victims of oppression for centuries, the civil rights movement represented hope, liberation, and social acceptance in a society that viewed them with disdain. The first picture shows one of the prominent leaders of the social rights movement, Dr. Martin Luther King, in a conference meeting with some of his colleagues at the Southern Christian leadership Conference in June 1964. The photo captured a heated conversation between Dr. King and James Brock, who was the owner of the Monsoon Motor Lodge in Florida. Continued viewing of the gallery shows the hurdles that the African-American-led civil rights had to endure to have their voices heard in the streets. In the second photo, protests are being fire hosed by what seems like the fire department at Kelly Ingram park in 1963. Another critical aspect in the photo collection is the role of African American women in the movement, where they showed as much valiance as their male counterparts in protesting in the streets. The third photo shows a woman kneeling in front of a police department vehicle. In contrast, other photos show conflict between civil rights march protesters and anti-riot police deployed to counter the insurrection.

The second collection of artworks chosen for analysis is the Indian activism art titled 'When I Remember I See Red,' showing artistic expressions that encapsulate the Red-Indian culture. The gallery was organized by Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento, California (National Endowment for the Humanities, 2020). The artwork, made in memory of curator Frank LaPena, carries cultural significance in depicting various facets of Native American life. In the first artwork titled 'First Light,' there is an abstracted depiction of two life forms: an apache with a for-like head and another being a woman facing towards a river with the side of the stream experiencing rain. The second form of artwork is realist in nature, titled "You are on Native Land' shows a woman in Navajo regalian with various instruments associated with the Navajo lifestyle (Bartrop, 2007). The third form of artwork called California's genocide gives a realist depiction of the events in which a large number of the indigenous tribes that lived within the state were killed in 370 different massacres.

Based on the two collection sets, there are several similarities and innate differences that can be derived from the major themes accentuated in each collection. Both artworks depict the struggle for acceptance in American culture. The Civil rights movement shows the African American community had to overcome racism to finally get the rights they have been denied for an extended period (Sunstein, 1995). In like manner, the Navajo exhibit shows a culture that has had to endure a violent past for it to remain relevant in a future that threatens to wipe its very existence. The two collections show artwork that captures the struggles of being a marginalized community in America, attempt to show the historical past that would, in normal circumstances, exist in oblivion.

Despite the similarities, key details are also revealed in the art forms as well as the thematic expressions that are made manifest in both artworks. One key difference is the style, where the Civil rights movement uses photo-realism to bring out historical events that happened and show how the civil rights movement was met with stiff opposition from contemporary governmental institutions. The photos are also monochromatic, which may have been due to the technology that was available at the time, but also adds to the authenticity of the photography. In contrast, the Apache artwork uses expressionism in most of its paintings, where the abstract figures show their culture as having a paranormal existence that goes beyond the ordinary. While the Civil rights collection shows women playing an integral part in the struggle, Navajo art depicts women in high regard, venerated in the sense of being a focal point of the culture. A notable example in the artwork is that of the 'First Light', which shows a woman facing a river where she can manipulate the weather conditions. Upon further research, the artwork shows that the Navajo culture holds women with high regard as retainers of the culture that play a key factor in shaping the next generation. Another key element in the Navajo artwork that stood out in contrast to the Civil Rights photography is color. The artwork uses bold colors in a manner that distinctively expressionist, even when depicting the objects that exist in the natural world, such as trees and rivers. Abstraction is another distinct facet in the Navajo artwork, where the figures are seen to exist as demigods that form part of the culture.

From the analysis of both artworks, it would seem evident that there is a celebratory tone underlying both expressions, in which the respective cultures would be able to consider it a victory after overcoming adversity to retain the meaning of their cultures. The artworks are essential in telling the story of cultures marginalized in their recognition and acceptance but play an integral part in the richness that is considered American culture. The innate differences of the two collections help in underlying American diversity and showcase cultures using different approaches.

# References

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