Americans’ understanding of Western history, including that of the Great Plains, has been significantly shaped by novels, movies, and television Westerns. These narratives often leave out the voices of the region’s indigenous inhabitants and other groups, including women and African-Americans.

This selection of works from the museum’s permanent collection presents alternative perspectives on the Western past and its legacy. Images by American Indian artists, for example, address the displacement of Native peoples and the challenge of maintaining cultural traditions in the modern world. Other artworks highlight the idealization of the Western landscape as well as its overdevelopment. Still other works reassess the iconic status of historical Western figures.

A virtual tour of this exhibition is available at https://beach.k-state.edu/explore/exhibitions/voices-of-the-west.html

To book a post-tour discussion session with Education staff or for more information contact: Kathrine Schlageck, Associate Curator of Education, at klwalk@ksu.edu

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