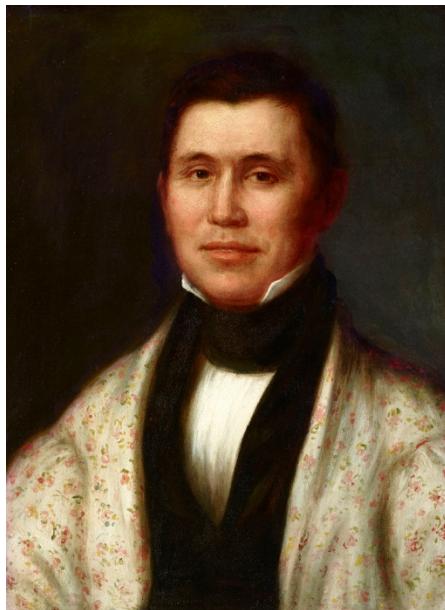


AMERICAN MUSEUM OF WESTERN ART

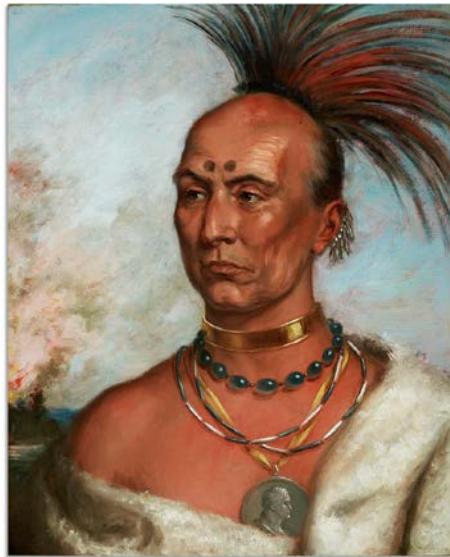
THE ANSCHUTZ COLLECTION

American Museum of Western Art—The Anschutz Collection and Lighthouse Writers Workshop's Write Denver Project **Writing the West: Progress & Protest**



Warm-Up: Charles Bird King, *Jesse Bushyhead*, 1828:

Look at the image of *Jessy Bushyhead* and consider how Native Americans were asked/told/forced to assimilate to American customs. Then, turn that same lens inward and look at how you are asked/told/forced to assimilate to the West. Is it through the media, laws, food, clothing, religion, transportation, war? Is there a Way of the West? If so, do you subscribe to it?



Charles Bird King, *Black Hawk, Makataimehikiaiah*, 1833:

Think about how this moment documented by King's painting might be depicted differently through the oral and written forms of storytelling. Feel free to take notes. When you're ready, and using *Black Hawk, Makataimehikiaiah* as inspiration, describe the power and drawbacks of both forms of storytelling—the oral and the written.



Theodor Kaufmann, *Westward the Star of Empire*, 1867:

History has repeated itself many times when it comes to American technology, whether that technology is based in art, war, commerce, politics, or communication, and Native Americans protesting it. *Westward the Star of Empire* was painted after the artist read a news article about the actual event, where a group of Cherokee derailed a train in their effort to protest the railroad's dissection of their land. Considering more recent conflicts, speculate on what it would take for one of your characters or the narrator of one of your poems to actively join the side of progress or protest. Or, if you find that your character might never act, putting life and limb, finances and reputation on the line, use *Westward the Star of Empire* to engage in a piece whose theme is complicity.