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Review of *Memory and Vision: Arts, Cultures, and Lives of Plains Indian People*. By Emma Hansen

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of the Plains Indian Museum at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming—is much more than a catalog of that institution’s collections. Founded with the clothing and adornments of the Plains performers who toured with Buffalo Bill’s Wild West shows, the museum has since grown with the acquisition of major private collections, and most recently by collecting the work of living Plains artists. Illustrated with color photographs of objects and archival images and illuminated by quotes from interviews, ethnographies, and oral histories, Hansen’s volume surveys the cultures of Plains people in six thematic chapters with brief interchapter essays by contemporary Plains scholars and artists Beatrice Medicine, Gerard Baker, Joseph Medicine Crow, Arthur Amiotte, and Bentley Spang.

Hansen addresses the intertwined lives of Plains people and the great bison herds. She notes, however, that the familiar image of Plains culture—made possible by the introduction of the horse—flourished for only a century and a half, ending with the Indian wars of the late nineteenth century. *Memory and Vision* traces a much longer history of life on the Plains, discussing ancient sacred sites and petroglyphs, the ceremonial use of tobacco, and the “Winter Counts”—graphic, calendrical aids to oral storytelling—produced by Plains men. She addresses the often-overlooked lives of women and children, highlighting Plains women’s art and material culture—including architecture, geometric designs on tanned hide robes and parfleches, quillwork, and beadwork—as well as the role of Plains women in a culture and economy based on foraging and horticulture. The lives of Plains children are illustrated with dolls and miniature cradleboards and tipi covers.

Plains ceremonial traditions, including the Sun Dance and Ghost Dance, are placed in historical perspective as Hansen describes the federal repression of Plains culture and spirituality from the late nineteenth to the early twentieth century. Hansen notes that the nadir of Plains cultures—the Reservation Era with its programs of relocation and assimilation through the federal boarding schools—was also a period of “unexpected and remarkable”

Memory and Vision: Arts, Cultures, and Lives of Plains Indian People. By Emma Hansen. Cody, WY: Buffalo Bill Historical Center; Seattle: in association with University of Washington Press, 2007. 319 pp. Photographs, notes, bibliography, index. \$75.00 cloth, \$45.00 paper.

This publication—based on the award-winning reinterpretation and reinstallation in 2000

revitalization. The twentieth century, she demonstrates in her final chapter, "Our People Today," saw artists embrace new materials and motifs as traditional gender roles were in some cases transformed, and new cultural forms such as the Powwow and Homecoming emerged.

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