

**Text-based description of poster: “Imagery as Cultural History:
Creating our own connection to land” by Lyn Trudeau, 2013**

Context (right side):

Imagery has transferred philosophies, ancestral knowledge, and cultural understandings that speak to belief systems in present-day societies. This is voiced across Turtle Island in song — a symphony of red clay, carvings, ochre, stone, and paints full of stories left by our ancestors.

Brothers and sisters from differing backgrounds and histories have left their cultural imprint across Mother Earth. All Indigenous nations, respective to their own territories, partook in keeping a record of their own histories prior to shared colonial experiences and being fed the concept of the written word. The visual captured cultural teachings and times now gone. This was the first form of keeping a physical documentation of ancient cultures before the advent of scribal writing.

Buffalo Robes: Story robes are pictorial journeys on Buffalo portraying special events would have been drawn on the back of a buffalo hide encapsulating ceremonies, and meaningful stories to be passed on. Over time, the story robe would become like a journal - the different parts of the story robe displaying the times.

Pictographs: Grandfather Stone is an unwavering Spirit weathering many storms preserving Indigenous cultures in various forms of creative art. Pictographs were beset upon Grandfather Stone in drawings on flat rock faces or cliffs telling stories and events occurring years long ago. These pictographs are also known as Rock Paintings and were created using red ochre.

Petroglyphs: Petroglyphs are images literally incised in stone. These images are also referred to as Legend Writing and/or as The Rocks that teach. Petroglyphs are much more than a physical impression; for Indigenous Peoples petroglyphs are a connection to our pasts and a spirituality that has been gifted to our Nations.

Cedar Spirit/Totem Pole: The imagery associated with each totem pole represents a familial history and where the peoples of that geographic location’s place was within the community and/or nearby communities. The art and image was a telling of family bloodlines and clans and told stories from where it was situated. Totem poles are thought to possess the Spirit of the tree; therefore, considered a sacred entity.

Tipi Coverings: Stories were put on tipi covers by those who had a story told to them or experienced it. The painted the design/image would carry meaning and/or represent Spirits that protect and guide the ones housed within.

Description of poster: Water cascading over rock blending into a cityscape silhouette with various forms of ancient Indigenous art.