

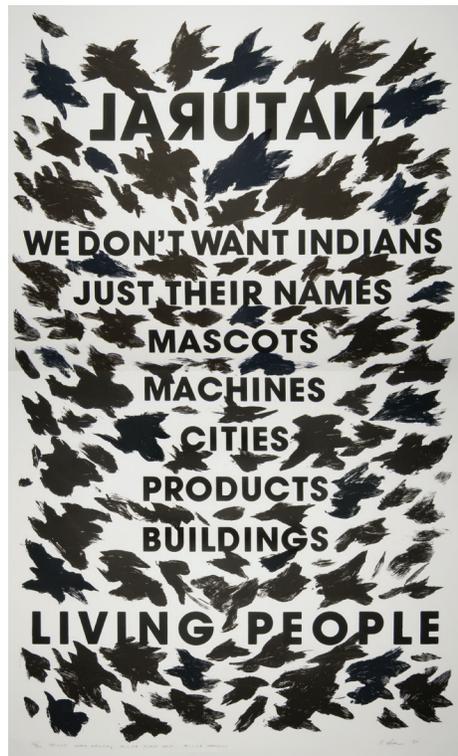
# TELLING MANY MAGPIES, TELLING BLACK WOLF, TELLING HACHIVI

1989

Screenprint

Image/sheets (two joined), approximately:  
72<sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub> x 45<sup>1</sup>/<sub>16</sub> inches (183.7 x 114.4 cm)

2009-61-35a,b



## LET'S LOOK

Read all the words in the print.

What is the artist saying?

Now look at how the artist has written the words and what he has surrounded them with.

Why has he written "natural" in reverse and "living people" so large?

Dark, abstract shapes, which the artist calls "magpies," fly in and around the text. What feelings do they add to the image? What sounds would these birds make?

This print is six feet tall. Why might the artist have chosen to make it so large?

What do you think Heap of Birds believes about the popular use of tribal names today? What do you think?

## ABOUT THE PRINT

The title of this **print** refers to the important role of oral history in Native American culture. Many Magpies/Heap of Birds is the artist's great-great-grandfather, a Cheyenne chief. Black Wolf is the artist's great-grandfather, and Hachivi (Hock E Aye Vi) is the artist.

This six-foot-tall work, composed of black text printed on white paper, is filled with contrasts: fluttering **abstract** shapes encircle rows of bold text; most of the words are read left to right, but "NATURAL" is written in reverse. According to Heap of Birds, the dark shapes are magpies in flight.

This print raises many questions. Is it right to take tribal names to promote sport teams or to sell products? Are indigenous cultures and people acknowledged or given the respect they deserve? Are people today living in harmony with each other and with nature? The first and last lines of text suggest what Heap of Birds believes. What do you think?

*"Before any truly sweeping social justice for Natives in America can be forthcoming, a stunning reality must be projected of the true existence of Native Americans."*

—HOCK E AYE VI EDGAR HEAP OF BIRDS