



**E. Boyd**

American (1903–1974)  
with the assistance of  
unrecorded New Mexican  
artist

WPA, Federal Arts Project,  
Fine Arts Division  
Selections from *Index of  
American Design: Spanish  
Colonial Design in New Mexico*

1. Our Lady of Guadalupe
2. San Ysidro
3. altar screen (strong  
resemblance to the  
Laguna Pueblo altar  
screen)



1938  
Paper, ink, watercolor  
TM 1982.3  
Duff Gallery

Sources:  
<https://www.gpgallery.com/artists/e-boyd>  
<https://www.nga.gov/education/teachers/teaching-packets/index-american->

Look: Have the group spend time looking at the artworks in the Southwest contemporary art gallery. Then gather the audience in front of the artwork to explore using conversation and questions.

Inform: The intention of the Index of American Design was to foster national identity through the visual inventory of material culture and aesthetic unique to the regional US. These renderings were created as documentation of Spanish Colonial Design in New Mexico.

Ask: What details look flat and what details look 3-dimensional (showing that these are records of existing art objects)

possible answers: 3D- the base on the bottom of the bultos, the bodies of the bultos, the animals, the columns in the altar screen, the rays of light around Lady of Guadalupe, the crown and hat on the bultos

2D - the designs and figures in the panels of the altar screen, the clothing and facial features on the bultos (since they are painted on)

Inform: For a record of consistent quality the FAP expected the artists who worked on the renderings to erase their own artistic individualities, to produce uniformly photo-realistic representations of the objects.

Explore: Can you identify objects in this exhibition that resemble the objects in these renderings? What details do the objects share?

Do: Walk around exhibition with visitors as they answer the questions above to support their discovery of similarities. If needed, be specific by suggesting other objects (see related objects below) to look at, then compare them together.

**Key Terms:**

*retablo* (pronounced ray-ta-blow) a devotional painting; a frame or shelf enclosing decorated panels or revered objects above and behind an altar.

*bulto* (pronounced bool-tow) a devotional sculpture

*altar screen* an elaborately decorated screen set behind a church altar

**About the Artist:** E. Boyd (1903-1974) was an art administrator, painter, and writer from Santa Fe, New Mexico who studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art. Records indicate she was assisted on these works by a New Mexican artist.

Related artworks in the exhibition:

San Ysidro



Our Lady of Guadalupe



Our Lady of Guadalupe

