Learn More!

Native American Ledger Drawing

Web Sites

http://americanhistory.si.edu/documentsgallery/exhibitions/ledger_drawing_1.html
This site features high quality images of ledger drawings from the exhibition Keeping History: Plains Indian Ledger Drawings at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History (an exhibition that was on view from November 2009-January 2010). It includes helpful information on the history of ledger drawing. Images can be viewed in a full screen format.

https://plainsledgerart.org/
This site from the Plains Indian Ledger Art Project at the University of California at San Diego is dedicated to presenting and preserving Plains Indian ledger art and drawings on papers from the late nineteenth century. It allows viewers to scroll through images of complete ledger books.

Books

Spirit Beings and Sun Dancers: Black Hawk’s Vision of the Lakota World by Janet Catherine Berlo. In the early 1880s, Black Hawk, a Lakota medicine man living on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in South Dakota, was commissioned by a local trader to create 76 drawings. He created a rich series capturing his dreams, Lakota religious rituals, and scenes of hunting and animal life. Berlo, a professor of gender and women’s studies, provides historical and cultural context.

Howling Wolf and the History of Ledger Art, by Joyce Szabo. Howling Wolf was one of many Plains warriors sent as prisoners of war to Fort Marion in Saint Augustine, Florida in the 1870s. While there, he made powerful ledger drawings documenting life in prison and recalling nostalgic memories of home. He continued to make drawings after his return to the reservation. Szabo, a leading authority on ledger drawing, uses Howling Wolf’s work to tell the history of ledger art.