This exhibit explores Native American indigenous cultures through the lens of European global expansion and exploration from the late fourteenth century through the late nineteenth century.

As early as 1588, European illustrators, such as Theodore De Bry, were portraying North America and its inhabitants for an eager public. Their idealized depictions of Native Americans created a sensation in Europe.

Other illustrators, like George Catlin, attempted to portray indigenous peoples in a more realistic way. Illustrations from Captain Cook’s voyages and his ill-fated return to the Hawaiian Islands are also on display. Please come and enjoy these rare works.

For more information, contact the Sutro Library at (415) 469-6100 or sutro@library.ca.gov
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