

Materials: Use some or all - whatever you can find!

- Draw/write: crayons, pencils, markers
- Cut/tear: scissors, fingers
- Attach: glue, glue stick, tape
- Paper: magazines, wrapping paper, a notepad, old assignments, anything you can find - use your imagination!

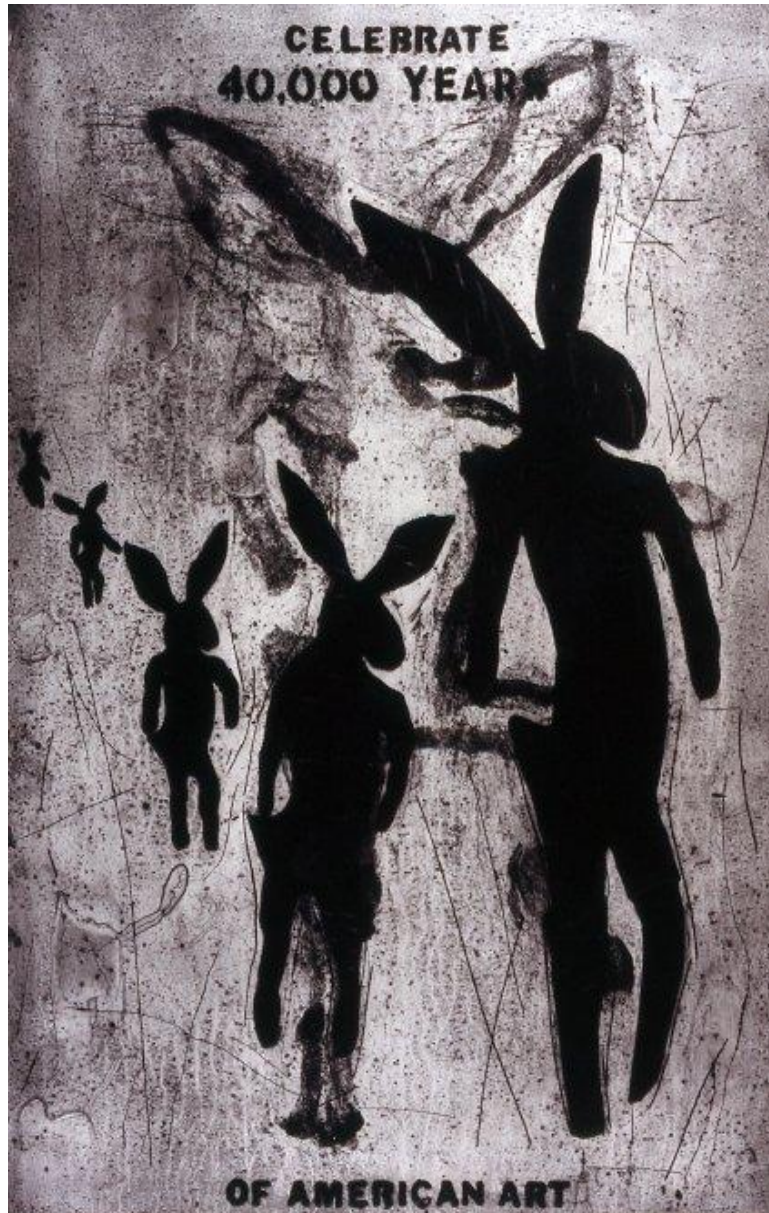


Image: Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, (Salish-Kootenai, Métis-Cree, Shoshone-Bannock), *Celebrate 40,000 Years of American Art*, 1995, collagraph, 71½ x 47½ inches, MAM Contemporary American Indian Art Collection, gift of the artist, 2006.16, copyright the artist.

Instructions:

1. Take a look at the artwork, called *40,000 Years of American Art* by Jaune Quick-to-See Smith. Jaune was the first artist whose work was represented in the Contemporary American Indian Art Collection at MAM. It is part of a current exhibition called *Love Letters to the Collection*.

2. Imagine what you might say to this piece of art. Optional sentence starters include:

Dear *40,000 Years of American Art*,

- Through my eyes, you are _____
- When I read your title, I feel like you are telling me _____
- My experience/history/place in the world makes me see _____ when I look at you.
- From the moment we met I connected with you because _____

3. If writing isn't your favorite way to express yourself, there are plenty of other options: Create a spoken word poem! Rap! Sing a song! Create a dance! Check out the history of [the 49 Dance](#), a Native American social dance and song tradition from the Great Plains.

4. Send us your love letter! Each artwork on view has its own email address. This artwork's address is: 40000years@missoulaartmuseum.org. You can send a photo of your work to this email address. Or, you can post audio or video to your social media and use the hashtag #mamloveletters so we can repost it!

Make anything - draw, decorate, collage, embellish your letter. We can't wait to read what you think. Remember, your letters will be added to the permanent record for this artwork!

Interested in learning more about Jaune Quick-to-See Smith? [Click here](#) for more biographical info about her!

