

Artist: Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, (Salish-Kootenai, Métis-Cree, Shoshone-Bannock), from the exhibition *Love Letters to the Collection*.

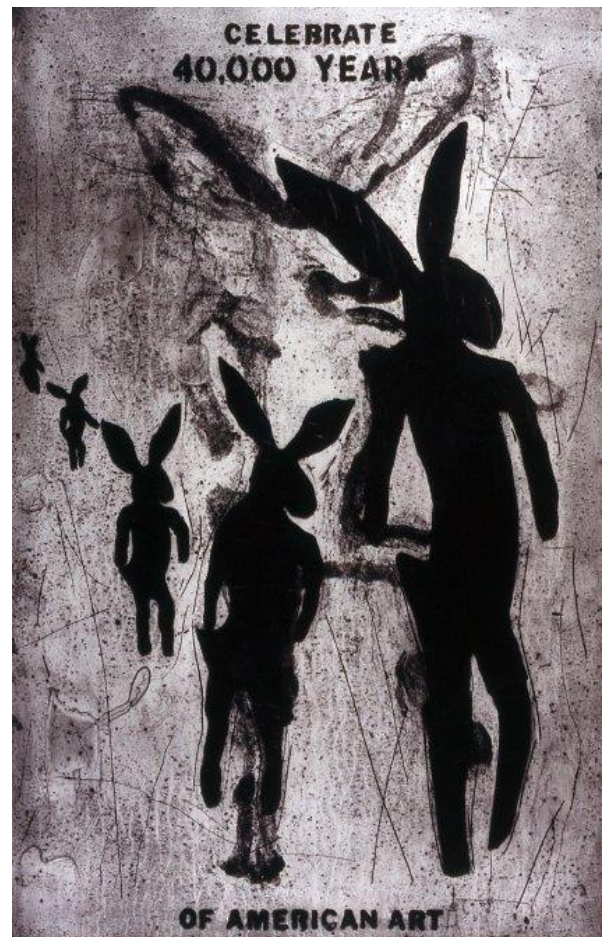
Artwork: *Celebrate 40,000 Years of American Art*

Materials: use anything you can find!

- **Something to write/draw on:** paper, wrapping paper, old notebook paper, (can be recycled!)
- **Something to write/draw with:** crayons, pencils, markers, chalk

Prompt: Take a look at the artwork, titled *Celebrate 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 was part of an exhibition called [Love Letters to the Collection](#). This exhibition invites many voices to express love to this piece of art. When everyone our voices form a more complete understanding of this artwork.

If writing isn't your favorite way to express yourself, make anything - draw, decorate, collage, embellish your letter. 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.



Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, (Salish-Kootenai, Métis-Cree, Shoshone-Bannock) *Celebrate 40,000 Years of American Art*, collagraph, 1995, MAM Contemporary American Indian Art, donated by the artist, copyright the artist, 2006.16.03.

Steps:

1. Look closely at this artwork and sketch or name all the things you notice and wonder about it.
2. Imagine what you might say to this piece of art and create your love letter. Optional sentence starters include:

Dear *Celebrate 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. Send MAM 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!

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