

**WHITNEY**  
**KIDS**

**JAUNE  
QUICK-TO-  
SEE SMITH:  
MEMORY  
MAP**

**ACTIVITY GUIDE**

## This Whitney Kids guide belongs to:

# LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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Andy Ambrose, *Jaune Quick-to-See Smith with Cheyenne*, 1992. Photograph. Courtesy the artist and Garth Greenan Gallery, New York. © Andy Ambrose

Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, *Ronan Robe #4*, 1977. Oil, beeswax, charcoal, and soot on canvas with lodgepole, two parts: 66 x 59 in. (167.6 x 149.9 cm) overall. Tia Collection. © Jaune Quick-to-See Smith. Photograph by James Hart Photography

Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, *Kalispell #1*, 1979. Pastel and charcoal on paper, 41¼ x 29½ in. (106 x 75.2 cm). Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; gift of Altria Group, Inc. 2008.137. © Jaune Quick-to-See Smith

Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, *Cheyenne Series #53*, 1984. Collage of paper and fabric with watercolor, pastel, and graphite pencil, 30 x 22 in. (76.2 x 55.9 cm). Tia Collection. © Jaune Quick-to-See Smith. Photograph by James Hart Photography

Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, *Petroglyph Park*, 1987. Pastel and charcoal on paper, 22 x 22 in. (55.9 x 55.9 cm). Collection of Sascha S. Bauer. © Jaune Quick-to-See Smith. Photograph courtesy the artist and Garth Greenan Gallery, New York

Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, *McFlag*, 1996. Oil, paper, and newspaper on canvas with speakers and electrical cord, three parts: 60 x 100 in. (152.4 x 254 cm) overall. Tia Collection. Fabricated by Neal Ambrose-Smith. © Jaune Quick-to-See Smith. Photograph courtesy the artist and Garth Greenan Gallery, New York

Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, *Homeland*, 2017. Oil and acrylic on canvas, 48¼ x 72½ (122.6 x 183.2 cm). Buffalo AKG Art Museum, New York; bequest of John Mortimer Schiff by exchange. © Jaune Quick-to-See Smith. Photograph by Tom Loonan and Brenda Bieger for Buffalo AKG Art Museum

Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, *Trade Canoe for the North Pole*, 2017. Oil, acrylic, paper, newspaper, and fabric on canvas, three panels: 60 x 160 in. (152.4 x 406.4 cm) overall. OZ Art NWA, Bentonville, Arkansas. © Jaune Quick-to-See Smith. Photograph courtesy the artist and Garth Greenan Gallery, New York

Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, *Urban Trickster*, 2021. Cast bronze, 28 x 20½ x 24 in. (71.1 x 52.1 x 61 cm). Gochman Family Collection. © Jaune Quick-to-See Smith. Photograph courtesy the artist and Garth Greenan Gallery, New York

Jaune Quick-to-See Smith's sketchbook, c. 1976, opened: 11 x 17 in. (27.9 x 43.1 cm). Collection of the artist; courtesy Garth Greenan Gallery, New York. © Jaune Quick-to-See Smith

The Whitney is located in Lenapehoking, the ancestral homeland of the Lenape. The name Manhattan comes from their word Mannahatta, meaning “island of many hills.” The Museum’s current site is close to land that was a Lenape fishing and planting site called Saponckanikan (“tobacco field”). The Whitney acknowledges the displacement of this region’s original inhabitants and the Lenape diaspora that exists today.

As a museum of American art in a city with vital and diverse communities of Indigenous people, the Whitney recognizes the historical exclusion of Indigenous artists from its collection and program. The Museum is committed to addressing these erasures and honoring the perspectives of Indigenous artists and communities as we work for a more equitable future.

# WELCOME



The artist Jaune Quick-to-See Smith was born in 1940 and is a citizen of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Nation. Smith knew she wanted to be an artist since she was a kid.

This exhibition's title, *Memory Map*, takes inspiration from Smith's deep connection to the land, and the importance of storytelling to her art and communities. She works with many different materials and tells her stories using symbols like maps, flags, horses, bison, and trade canoes. Her work protests the violent ways that Native Americans have had their languages, lands, and histories taken from them by US government policies, but also celebrates the strength of Indigenous communities.

This Kids Activity Guide is designed to introduce you to the work of Jaune Quick-to-See Smith! Use this guide to investigate the exhibition and experiment with your own ideas. The guide was developed by the Whitney Family Programs team in consultation with Jaune Quick-to-See Smith. We hope it inspires the artist in you! Check out [whitney.org/Families](http://whitney.org/Families) for a full list of our Family Programs



**What does it mean to be Indigenous or Native American?** There are Indigenous people all around the world. The word "Indigenous" means that they were the first to populate a place, before the arrival of any other cultures or nationalities. Today, Indigenous peoples retain their distinct cultures and strong connections to their lands. In the United States, the Indigenous people are often referred to as Native Americans.

# GRATITUDE POEM



## ***Ronan Robe #4, 1977***

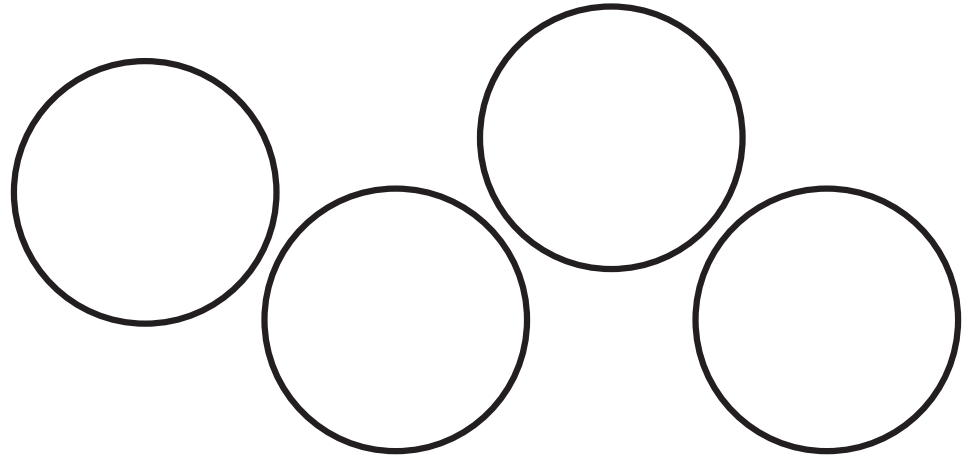
Take a close look at this painting, and think about how it's different from the ones you usually see in museums. Talk to your grownup about its shape. If you found it in nature, what would it be? Do you notice anything interesting about the materials?

To make this artwork, Smith did use a canvas—but instead of just painting it, she layered it with beeswax and painted designs, mixing her own creations with traditional Salish and Kootenai techniques for tanning (or turning an animal skin into leather) bison hide. Before the arrival of white colonists, many Native Americans depended on bison for food, shelter, clothing, tools, and ceremonial objects. Many celebrations and songs are about giving thanks to the bison and all of nature. Here Smith creates new ways to carry on those traditions.

## **Try This**

Many Salish celebrations and songs are about giving thanks to all of nature. What is something important to you and your family or community you want to express gratitude for? Consider people and animals, special places and traditions, passions and hobbies you value. In the bubbles below, write or draw the things you want to express thanks for. Then choose one to write a poem about.

I am grateful for:



Title:

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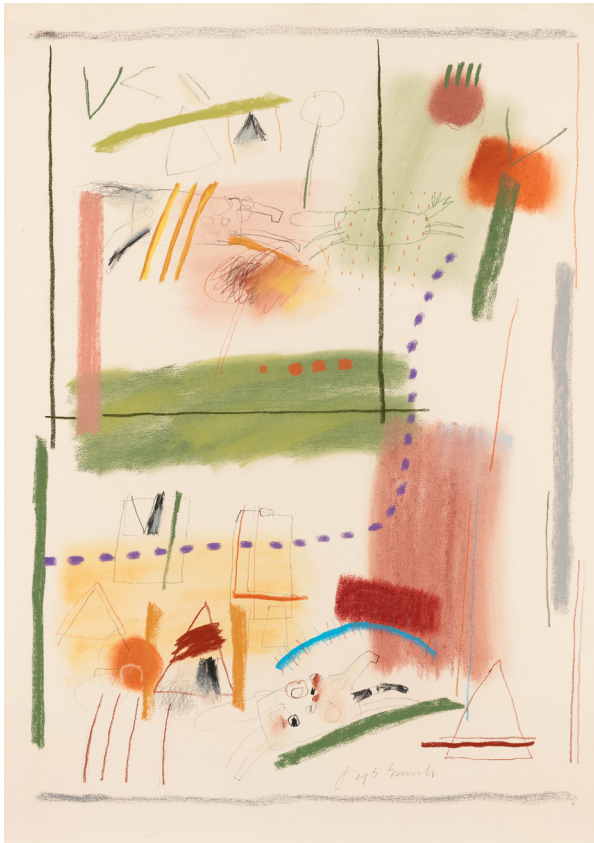
**What is a colonist?** A colonist is a member of a group that settles, often by force, in a new country or region. The land claimed by a colonist is usually already occupied by another group of people.



# STORY MAP

## ***Kalispell #1, 1979***

You know what maps are, but have you ever thought about the different ways they can be used? They can help us find our way, or tell us where one place begins and another one ends. Maps also create artificial borders, which divide up the natural world. Here, Smith imagines maps as tools for understanding the world more deeply. She creates a new type of

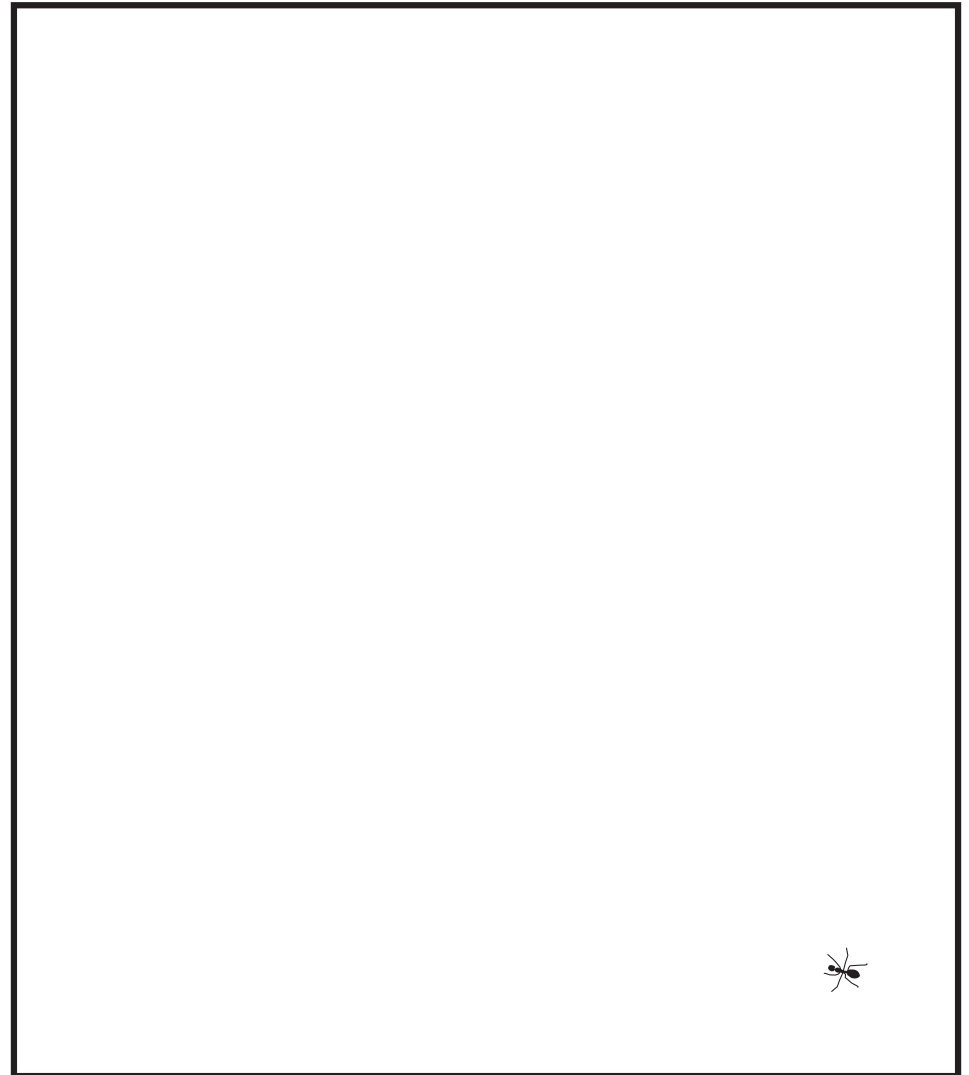


map with colors, shapes, and dotted lines depicting human and animal movement in addition to her memories. She says, “Songs, storytelling, poetry, symbols, dreams, and art are the essence of explanations for defining [Indigenous] peoples’ territories.”

## **Try This**

All living things share the same world, although we each have our own experience. Make a map for a teeny tiny bug. What stories can you tell about a day in the life of a little bug?

What might the bug think about as they travel through the world you draw? Include their thoughts, dreams, and songs. Try adding marks that show how a bug might move around.



# ANIMAL WISDOM



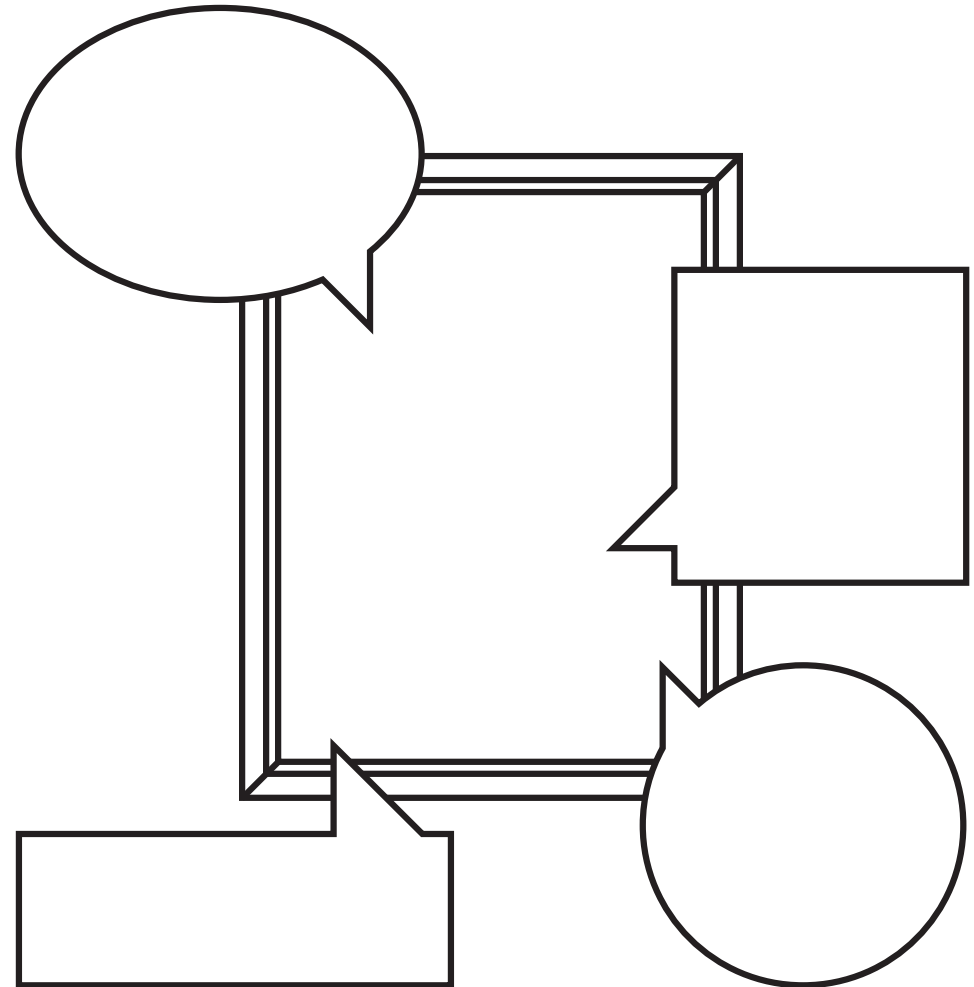
***Cheyenne***  
**Series #53,**  
**1984**

Jaune Quick-to-See Smith  
once had a

horse named Cheyenne. They spent time exploring the landscape together, and he appeared in many of her artworks. She said, “We would ride a trail together through life, and he was my model...But for me, it is up close and personal. Cheyenne was like a part of the family. He was my friend.” Animals are very important to Smith, especially horses. Her father was a horse trader and she has always been around them since birth. Smith’s first experience with art came from small drawings of animals on scrap paper that her father drew for her.

## Try This!

Consider the ways you have formed a bond with a pet or an animal in the wild or even in your imagination. How has this relationship impacted your life? What have you learned from animals? Choose an animal that is special to you. Draw a portrait of this animal. Now, imagine that the animal was a teacher! In the speech bubble write what you imagine the animal might say. What wisdom does your animal have to share with human kids and grownups? What stories would they tell?





# IMAGE FOR THE FUTURE



## ***Petroglyph Park, 1987***

Did you know that all people communicated with pictures before alphabets were invented? A petroglyph is a work of art created on the surface of a rock by cutting, picking, carving, or scraping. For this painting, Smith took inspiration from ancient petroglyphs near her home in New Mexico that are thought to be around 3,000 years old. Smith was drawn to the petroglyphs'

style and to the idea of connecting to the deep past through a long lineage of artists. As humans have evolved, art has been an important part of how we try to understand our world.

## **Try This!**

Imagine that the artwork you create in the space below will last 1,000,000 years! What images and messages do you have for the future? What do you want to tell them about your life today? Use shapes, images, words, and designs to create your artwork. Give your artwork a title! What does the title reveal about your piece?



**What is inspiration?** Inspiration is someone or something that gives you ideas for doing something creative.

# WORD SEARCH

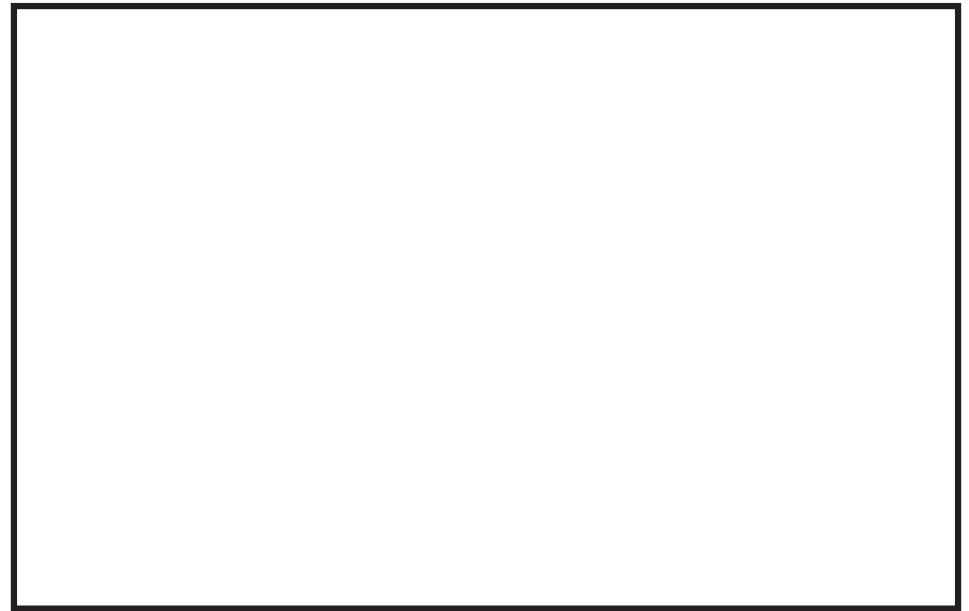
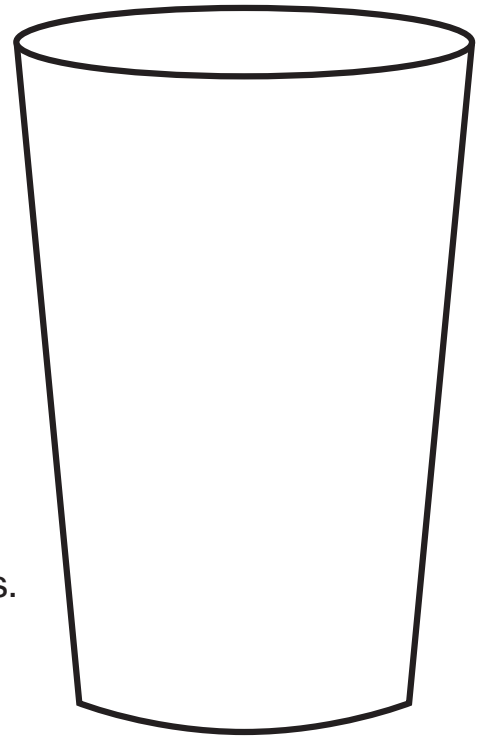


## **McFlag, 1996**

Stars and stripes and...Big Macs? If the title Smith gave this work makes you think of fast food restaurants, that's not by accident! She's also put round black speakers on the upper corners of the flag, mimicking the dish-like ears of Disney's Mickey Mouse. Look closely at the surface: you'll see that she's collaged it with language from ads—bigger, better, more! Smith often uses humor to make a serious point. Here, she's partly making fun of mindlessly wanting more and more stuff. She also gives a larger perspective on what it might mean to take and take—thinking about the U.S. government's long history of taking Native Americans from their homelands and moving them to reservations.

## **Try this!**

Look closely at the surface of the painting and see what words you can find. Collect some of the words in the bin. Now, use those words to make an artwork. Choose a few words in your bin and **DRAW** (don't write) each letter. Layer words on top of each other, or hide words inside of other words. What new meanings have emerged from your word collage?



**What is a collage?** A collage is a work of art that brings together different images, materials, and sometimes words.



# MAP OF ME



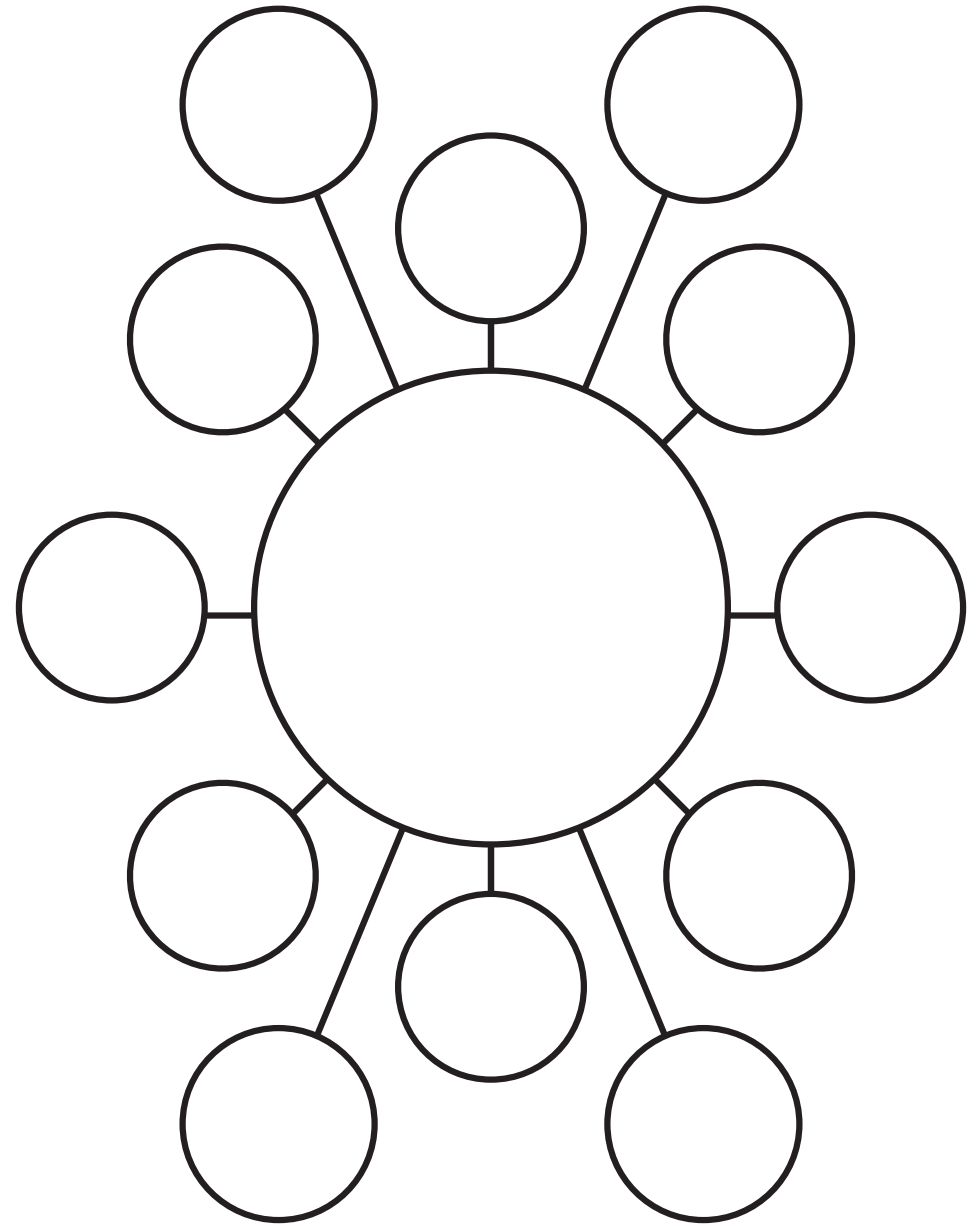
## ***Homeland, 2017***

The painting *Homeland* shows colorful rays and circles that originate from the artist's reservation in Montana and cross the borders of all the contiguous U.S. states. Here, the artist challenges the idea that a nation's "center" must be its capital city or any other large, famous place and asks viewers to explore the connection between who they are and where they're from.

**?** **What is a reservation?** A reservation is an area of land that has been reserved for Native American nations through treaties or agreements with the United States government. Native Americans were often forced to move on to reservations very far away from their original home. Today, there are over 300 reservations in the U.S.!

## **Try this**

Think of all the people and places that have helped make you the person you are today. In the center bubble, draw a self portrait. In the surrounding bubbles add the people, places, and things that have shaped your identity.



# PACKING LIST FOR THE WORLD



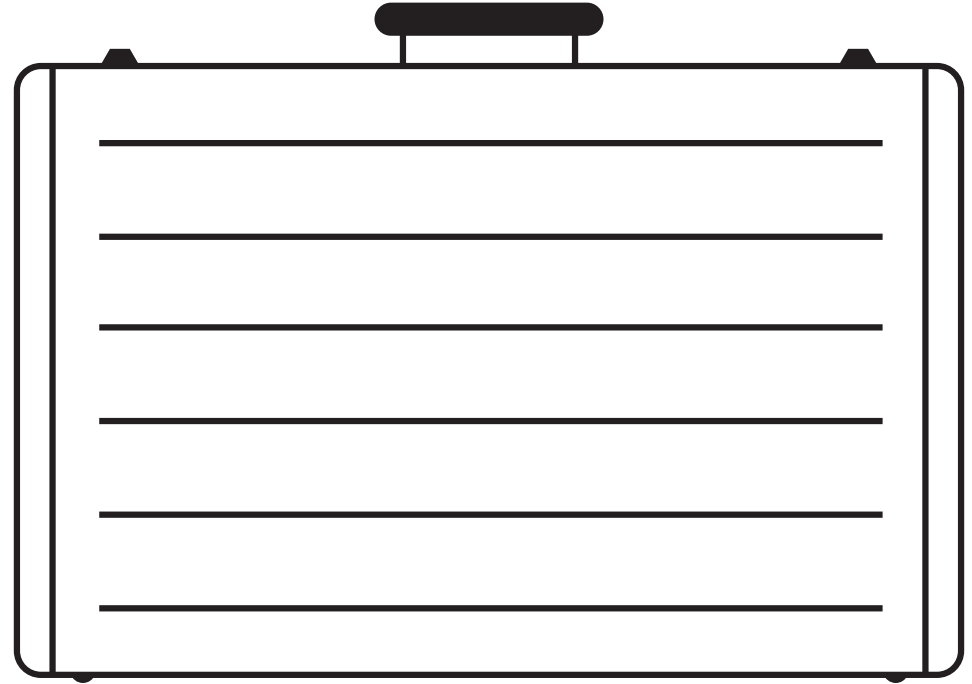
## ***Trade Canoe for the North Pole, 2017***

For this work, Smith fills a canoe with all of the items she thinks society might need to build a life in a warming climate. There are living things like cacti and animals, but also more playful items like bingo cards and a rubber duck. Smith also includes a glacier because she says “it’s much needed there” as climate change and global warming bring “oozing, melting glaciers” to the Arctic. Canoes were important for many Native American communities. Remember, there were no horses or oxen and wagons until the Europeans invaded so only canoes and dogs were used for transport. This is one of many trade canoe paintings you will find throughout the exhibition!

**?** **What is global warming?** Global warming is the term used to describe the rising of the average temperature on Earth. As Earth’s temperature rises, glaciers melt and ocean levels rise. This causes flooding in places located near the coast. Global warming has many other negative effects including more extreme weather like powerful hurricanes and droughts, which are often most felt by communities of color and low-income communities.

## **Try this!**

If you had to make a list of all the things you think the world needs, what would you include? Include things that you would not really be able to put into a suitcase, like compassion and kindness. Use your imagination, nothing is too big or too small.



Make a list of the things you think we could do without....

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# SEARCH FOR COYOTES

## ***Urban Trickster, 2021***

Since the beginning of time humans have told stories! When Jaune Quick-to-See Smith was a kid, her grandmas and aunts would tell her stories of the Salish people. One very important figure in these stories was the Coyote, who helped prepare the earth for humans to live here. Coyote also taught the Salish about the important relationship between people, the land, and all living creatures. Coyote stories reminded humans to be responsible and respectful, but Coyote is also a

trickster whose teachings reflect the chaos of life. Coyote is both good and bad; kind and mean; clever and foolish just like us humans. Coyote inspires Smith in much of her artmaking—she embraces this dual role of teacher and trickster. Smith says, “Tricksters make people laugh, not in a mean way, but in a kind way.

Native people say laughter is good for our health. Like taking a walk, after we laugh together, we feel better.”



## **Try this!**

See how many coyotes you can find. Check a box for each one you discover!

*Hint: Some coyotes have made it to other floors of the Museum. You might find a coyote or two on floor 6, floor 7, and even down on the lowest level of the building, -1.*

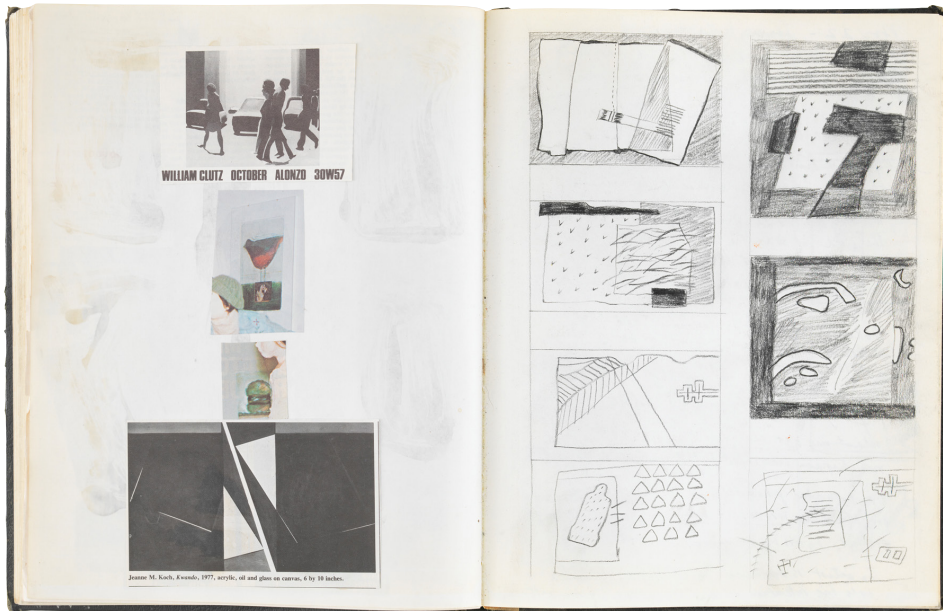
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Sketch one of the coyotes you found in the space below.

A large empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for sketching a coyote. The box is completely blank and occupies the lower right portion of the page.



# SKETCH!



Jaune Quick-to-See Smith carries a sketchbook everywhere she goes. It is an important place for her to record her thoughts, ideas, questions, and anything she finds interesting. She might draw a sketch, write out a poem, or even glue an image into the pages. She might even pick up a pigeon feather or a leaf to use for a bookmark!

Use the next few pages as your own sketchbook! Decorate the cover of your sketchbook and add your name. Fill the pages with whatever you like! There are no rules!

This sketchbook belongs to:

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