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## Everyday Words, Everyday Objects

**Jaune Quick-to-See Smith** uses collage, juxtaposition, and found objects in her artwork. Most often her compositions feature a large central image painted over a field of mixed media that incorporates collaged text and images. By painting large scale, Smith amplifies her message and defines her subject.

There are everyday things and everyday sayings. Smith uses the common phrase, “I see red,” as the title for a series of artworks. The color red plays a role in the paintings themselves and the word “red” is a derogatory reference to Native Americans. The phrase “I see red” is used to express the onset of sudden anger and the paintings address areas of distress in culture and the environment. Smith invites the viewer to think about how images of Native Americans and their culture have been misused or misappropriated. There are four paintings from the *I See Red* series including *I See Red: Indian Head Nickel* and *I See Red: A Nickel for Your Thoughts* in this exhibition. Look at the works of art on view.

- **The U.S. Treasury first circulated the Buffalo nickel in 1913 and stopped minting it in 1938. Why do you think the artist chose to paint this out-of-date nickel and why?**
- **How do the collage elements contribute to the visual composition?**
- **How do the collage elements help define the subject of the painting?**



**Jaune Quick-To-See Smith** (Citizen of Confederated Salish and Kootenai Nation, MT), *I See Red: Indian Head Nickel*, 1994, mixed media on canvas. Heard Museum Collection, Gift of Lynne and Albion Fenderson, catalog # 4611-1. © Courtesy of the artist and the Garth Greenan Gallery. Heard Museum Collection, photograph by Craig Smith.



**Jaune Quick-To-See Smith** (Citizen of Confederated Salish and Kootenai Nation, MT), *I See Red: A Nickel for Your Thoughts*, 1993, mixed media on canvas. Heard Museum Collection, Gift of Lynne and Albion Fenderson, catalog # 3637-1. © Courtesy of the artist and the Garth Greenan Gallery. Heard Museum Collection, photograph by Craig Smith.



**Jaune Quick-To-See Smith** (Citizen of Confederated Salish and Kootenai Nation, MT), *I See Red: McFlag*, 1996, mixed media on canvas.  
Courtesy of Tia Collection, Santa Fe, New Mexico

- *I See Red: McFlag* includes found objects. The artist incorporates two round speakers at the upper corners and a power cord in the lower left corner of the painting. What associations do the found-object elements add to this artwork?
- What do you think makes the artist “see red” in these paintings?

### AT HOME ACTIVITY

All you need is your imagination and a few everyday objects. Bring together a few objects that attract you in some way. Think about what they suggest or represent individually. Now pair two or more of these found objects together to suggest a new meaning.

### I SEE WORDS

**Scale** refers to the physical size of an artwork or size of objects within an artwork.

**Series** is a set of related items or artworks.

**Mixed media** is the combining of multiple art materials in one composition.

**Composition** refers to the overall relationship of all the elements in an artwork to one another.