Jaune Quick-to-See Smith was born in 1940 at the St. Ignatius Mission in Montana. As an enrolled member of the Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Indian Nation, she has drawn from her Indigenous heritage to create a body of work that reflects her identity and cultural heritage. Smith was interested in making art from a young age. At age 13, she saw her first art exhibit and was inspired to pursue this path.

In the face of these difficulties, Smith began to develop her artistry as an expression of her culture. She created her first paintings at age 15, which were shown at the Alaska Native Heritage Center in Anchorage, Alaska. From there, Smith's work gained recognition and she was invited to participate in several exhibitions and workshops across the United States.

Smith attended the State University of New York at Albany, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in fine arts. While studying there, she became interested in Native American art and began to explore her cultural heritage through her work.

In the 1970s, Smith moved to Boston, where she attended the Massachusetts Museum of Fine Arts and developed her distinctive style. She began to incorporate elements of Native American culture and imagery into her paintings, creating a unique style that is still evident in her work today.

In 1979, Smith was awarded the National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, which allowed her to travel to France and study the works of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. This experience had a significant impact on her work, as she began to explore themes of identity, culture, and history through her paintings.

Over the years, Smith has been recognized for her contributions to the art world, receiving numerous awards and honors. In 2001, she was awarded the National Medal of the Arts, which is the highest honor given to an individual artist by the United States government.

Smith's work is characterized by her use of bright colors and bold, expressive brushstrokes. She often incorporates Native American symbols and motifs into her paintings, creating a sense of cultural identity and heritage. Her work has been exhibited in numerous galleries and museums around the world, and she continues to create new works that reflect her cultural roots and personal experiences.

In 2019, Smith received the National Medal of Arts, which is the highest honor given to an individual artist by the United States government. This award recognizes her contributions to the art world and her dedication to preserving Native American culture and heritage.

Today, Jaune Quick-to-See Smith is one of the most renowned Native American artists in the United States. Her work continues to inspire and influence new generations of artists, and she remains committed to sharing her cultural heritage with the world.

Discussion Questions

1. How does Jaune Quick-to-See Smith describe her work as having layered meanings? Her intention is to bring the viewer into a sense of looking at a deeper meaning and present them with a thought-provoking message.

2. In her 1994 lithograph, Jaune Quick-to-See Smith incorporates a symbol that represents a Native American warrior and is often found in Native American art.

3. How does Smith convey a sense of humor or irony in her work? Smith uses humor to critique the Euro-American view of the world and to educate humans.

4. Jaune Quick-to-See Smith (Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Indian Nation, b. 1940), Horse Sense (For Advice and Counsel), 1994, color lithograph. How does this artwork address the impact of colonialism on Indigenous peoples?

5. What role do animals play in Smith's work? Animals are a central theme in Jaune Quick-to-See Smith's work. They represent Indigenous narratives and traditions across North America. The interpretation of the heartline varies between tribes and nations, but it often has a meaning related to health and vitality.

6. How does Jaune Quick-to-See Smith describe her work as having layered meanings? Her intention is to bring the viewer into a sense of looking at a deeper meaning and present them with a thought-provoking message.

7. In her 1994 lithograph, Jaune Quick-to-See Smith incorporates a symbol that represents a Native American warrior and is often found in Native American art.

8. How does Smith convey a sense of humor or irony in her work? Smith uses humor to critique the Euro-American view of the world and to educate humans.

9. Jaune Quick-to-See Smith (Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Indian Nation, b. 1940), Horse Sense (For Advice and Counsel), 1994, color lithograph. How does this artwork address the impact of colonialism on Indigenous peoples?

10. What role do animals play in Smith's work? Animals are a central theme in Jaune Quick-to-See Smith's work. They represent Indigenous narratives and traditions across North America. The interpretation of the heartline varies between tribes and nations, but it often has a meaning related to health and vitality.

11. How does Jaune Quick-to-See Smith describe her work as having layered meanings? Her intention is to bring the viewer into a sense of looking at a deeper meaning and present them with a thought-provoking message.

12. In her 1994 lithograph, Jaune Quick-to-See Smith incorporates a symbol that represents a Native American warrior and is often found in Native American art.

13. How does Smith convey a sense of humor or irony in her work? Smith uses humor to critique the Euro-American view of the world and to educate humans.

14. Jaune Quick-to-See Smith (Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Indian Nation, b. 1940), Horse Sense (For Advice and Counsel), 1994, color lithograph. How does this artwork address the impact of colonialism on Indigenous peoples?

15. What role do animals play in Smith's work? Animals are a central theme in Jaune Quick-to-See Smith's work. They represent Indigenous narratives and traditions across North America. The interpretation of the heartline varies between tribes and nations, but it often has a meaning related to health and vitality.
JAUNE QUICK-TO-SEE SMITH
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Indian Nation, b. 1940

HORSE SENSE (FOR ADVICE AND COUNCIL)
1994, color lithograph
30 x 22 3/8 in.

JOSLYN ART MUSEUM OMAHA, NEBRASKA
Museum purchase, 1994.31