

[ DISCUSS ]

“If I,” an *Indian Country Today* Collage

– for *Indian Country Today*, 1996 (acrylic and collage on canvas) by Jaune Quick-to-See Smith

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Discussion Points: Collage Poetry, Political Poetry, Anaphora Poetry

Discussion Questions:

1. In what ways does this poem mimic the artwork? And how are these elements used to convey meaning and tone?
2. How might the artwork (created in 1996) and the poem (published in 2017) each be considered “political”? What effect does time have on this perception?
3. What effect does the repetition of “If I am not” have? How might the poem read differently if “If I” were changed to “I am”?
4. How does the structure of the poem contribute to its meaning?
5. What meaning does the poem convey that the artwork does not and vice-versa? What limitations does each form have? What advantages?

Sources:

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