



ASSEMBLAGE WITH FACES

Glitter, paint, molded plastic figurines (*Star Wars* figures, putti, and devils), decorative plaques, vessels, frames, shells, metal and plastic jewelry, buttons, beads, seeds, glass, stone, plaster, pinecones, and other found objects on wood; artist-made painted wood frame

56 ½ × 107 × 3 ½ inches
(143.5 × 271.8 × 8.9 cm) with frame

The Jill and Sheldon Bonovitz Collection

LET'S LOOK

What do you notice when you first look at this work of art?

Now take a closer look. What new details do you find?

What patterns, textures, and colors do you see?

How many faces can you find? What kinds of materials does Sparrow use for eyes, mouths, and noses? Where do you think he found all the things he used to make this image?

ABOUT THE WORK OF ART

Assemblage with Faces dazzles our eyes and tickles our senses with a vast array of colors, textures, and patterns. When we look closely at Sparrow's construction—an **assemblage** of hundreds of beads, shells, toys, and other found objects—we can find faces and figures all over its surface. Shiny, round marbles become the eyes of the largest face, located on the right side of the image. Strings of beads form the nose, with shells and chains making the mouth and chin. The face is capped with a frothy mix of beads and glitter for hair. We are invited to look closely and discover more faces spread throughout this sparkling sculpture.

Like many self-taught artists, Sparrow found creative ways to incorporate found objects into his work. His work functions like a time capsule, capturing different elements of everyday life in America. For example, the left half of the assemblage features two 1977 *Star Wars* action figures, Obi-Wan Kenobi and Chewbacca. As we look closely, we might imagine how other elements of the piece, such as a plastic swan, chains, and marbles were used before they became a part of Sparrow's art.