

*Give the Anarchist a Cigarette* (May 2016)

Printed Material, Vinyl, Inks, and Acrylic Mediums on Canvas

18 x 24

I created this artwork in response to a previous mixed media collage I created, entitled *Stop Me If You Think That You've Heard This One Before*. I expanded on my previous piece by focusing on only one specific time period and covering a wide range of topics, rather than just music. *Give the Anarchist a Cigarette* is meant to showcase the turbulent decade of the 1960s, from my personal perspective. The subject matter was the main motivation and inspiration for this piece because I have always felt a profound connection with this decade and wished that I could have lived during this time. The revolutions, music, art, politics, technology, counterculture, literature, and energy of the time are what I aimed to encompass in this piece because I admire all of these facets of the period and all of the other phenomena, people, et cetera, that accompany them. My artistic process was a lengthy one. I began by collecting images from magazines like *Rolling Stone*, pop art-focused catalogs, and other relevant books. I had some images in mind ahead of time and had them printed manually. Sketching my plans and moving my material around graphically as I worked was paramount in achieving the best layout of images; this is an essential part of the collage process. I laid down the background first and then gradually added images, ink drawings, paint, pieces of broken and cut vinyl records, and glass beads, among other things. As I worked I developed ways of solving problems I encountered and incorporating new creative breakthroughs into the piece. The artwork is very meaningful to me and I put a tremendous amount of effort and time into creating it. When I see the artwork it is as if I can hear the music showcased in the piece playing along with the images; the meanings of everything I included in my collage are melded together into one meaning for the piece. It is meant to be a statement about what American culture and ideals were like in the 1960s and to show how different our society is now, in more ways than one. It has a very nostalgic aura and intent. It is also personal for me because I even included a picture of my aunt and there are many other family connections embedded in the piece. *Give the Anarchist a Cigarette* is simply a comment on everything that was the decade defined by the phrase "turn on, tune in, drop out."