

ZEST & THYME

A LOT OF ART. A LITTLE TRAVEL. AND SOME SLOW FOOD. BECAUSE A LIFE WITHOUT ZEST IS JUST TIME.

TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2008

Up + Coming: Megan Coyle



I recently discovered this [collage artist](#), and was immediately impressed with her work process. Here to share that, and her life as an artist, is Megan Coyle herself.

1) Your work is amazing! Do you have an image in mind, or does the work sort of present itself when you're going through your magazine clippings?

I usually have an idea of a composition--I take multiple photographs of my subject matter before sketching out the compositions. However, once I get started with flipping through magazines, the composition often changes. The different textures and colors I find have a way of falling together into their own work of art. I love how the outcome of my pieces is always unexpected. The materials I use are also very flexible since I just use glue sticks when I'm gluing down the cut-outs at first (I later put a coat of matte medium on them to protect the work). This allows me to peel off areas that I'm not satisfied with, and so there's a constant working back and forth with building up layers as well as peeling off others.

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THE BLOGGER



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2) Other media you work with?

My most recent work is all magazine clippings (this includes the majority of the portraits from [my site](#), with the exception of a few where I used oil pastels). With my previous collages, I've used oil pastel or pastels with the magazine clippings, and I've tried working with rice paper. I always have a tendency of turning back to just using magazine pages since I really like the textures and colors I find.

Since I studied painting for undergraduate school, I've had experience using oil and acrylic paints. I found myself trying to turn my paintings into collages, where I'd either glue magazine clippings onto the canvas, which I used to create an interesting texture with the paint, or I'd stitch together different pieces of painted canvas to create a sort of disjointed and patchy looking painting. Although I enjoyed experimenting with collage and paint, I found that I was more interested in purely using collage.

I have also dabbled in photography and more recently, digital art, although these are areas new to me.

3) Where do you find yourself most creative? I prefer the floor.

I actually find myself most creative when I'm working on the floor as well, mainly because I need plenty of stacks of magazines surrounding me and the floor gives me plenty of space to sprawl out.

1st Street near 1st Avenue, has been shuttered by the city once again...

1 hour ago

Diner's Journal

Off the Menu: Otarian - Otarian is a soon-to-be minichain that measures the carbon footprint of its vegetarian fare.

1 hour ago

The Feed Blog

Stock your larder at some of the city's best markets - Do your grocery shopping at these unusual suspects

1 hour ago

Edible Manhattan

More Food Trucks Than You've Ever Seen Together, Under the Brooklyn Bridge - Speaking of events to look forward to—we were, just this morning—Edible Manhattan just got word that as part of their yearly summer fest of food flicks the...

2 hours ago

The Atlantic Food Channel

Defending Grass-Fed Beef: A Rancher Weighs in - [image: Niman_greenbeef_4-14_post.jpg] Nicolette Hahn Niman Helene York's at it again: determinedly arguing that beef, even when entirely grass-fed, c...

5 hours ago

Salon Food

Some love for the Waffle House

- *A version of this story originally appeared on Sprezzatura.*

6 hours ago

Momofuku for 2

Cured Hamachi - I love raw fish with a passion, but it wasn't always so. My dad was the one who actually turned our whole family onto sushi and sashimi. I can barely remem...

6 hours ago

The Food Section

All In the Family - A Japanese engineer helps his family by designing technology to expedite

I also have a tendency of ripping out pages when they have a particular color or texture on them, and having lots of space lets me easily find all the loose pages.

It also helps when I'm listening to music (usually Bob Dylan or the Beatles) or episodes of the radio show, This American Life.



4) I'd love to hear a little about your journey as an artist.

I've been showing and selling my work throughout my college career as well as my last year of high school. Since I'm a recent graduate, I now have more time to focus on the aspects of my art that I think are important. Although I studied art in college, my professors didn't really focus any attention on how artists should go about getting publicity for their work. Thus this summer, I've had two jobs-- working at an art museum and working as a professional artist, where I work on my artwork as well as work on contacting papers and galleries. Others might consider this journey as struggle, however I'm much too passionate about art to really think of it as a struggle. It's more like a learning process where I figure things out as I go along.

I didn't always want to be an artist although art has always been a part of my life. Ever since I was about five, just about every year I took some sort of art class at a local gallery. I didn't start getting serious about art until I was nearing college, however I thought that I wanted to be a writer for the longest time. I actually went to college for writing, but decided to pick up an art major as well. I ended up graduating with more of an interest in art because the process made more sense to me. I wasn't easily frustrated with my art.

the making of wonton wrappers, Japanese buckwheat and Chinese egg noodles.

8 hours ago

Food Curated

Samaki Smokehouse & The Art of Cold-Smoked Salmon - Some people just like working with seafood... Meet Simon Marrian, the president and owner of Samaki Smoked Fish in Port Jervis, NY. He's a self-taught fish s...

9 hours ago

Eating Ithaca



Ep. 49: Eating Italian Ithaca at Joe's - Download MP3 | Subscribe to podcast via RSS |

Subscribe via iTunes We're skipping the interview segment this week so we can focus on our review of one of I...

13 hours ago

Food Politics

The new KFC Double Down: not an April fool joke? - Several informants – and students in my NYU Food Ethics class – told me about KFC's latest sandwich or sent me to stories about it: two slabs of breaded ch...

19 hours ago

Julia's Love Child ♥

I am not above admitting that I occasionally have intense... - I am not above admitting that I occasionally have intense cravings for Mickey Dee's, or Macca's, as they call it down under. Yes, I am fully aware of ho...

1 day ago

Month Without Monsanto Breeding vs. Engineering -

Maybe this should have been post #1, but I say better late than never. A friend of mine, who grew up on a dairy farm, posted to his Facebook page that he i...

3 days ago

Ithaca's Food Web

5) Other projects? Hopes for the future?

At the moment, I'm working on all sorts of collage projects. I'm planning on beginning a self-portrait that I'll enter into a upcoming juried exhibition and I've started my first piece for another series of portrait collages that I want to create. I'm interested in coming up with cohesive body of work that I can use to update my portfolio and send out to galleries in hopes to get a solo exhibition (since with my last series of portraits, the pieces now belong to various people).

I hope to become more active in the art community in the area I live in. It's been a while since I've lived in my hometown for a prolonged period of time, and I'm interested in finding ways to establish myself here before trying to spread the word of my work to other cities.



6) Favorite artists?

I've had an obsession with Vincent van Gogh ever since I was in the second grade, when I had to do a report on him. My class had to dress up like a famous person, as we talked about why they're a historical figure. So I wore a beret (since I thought all artists wore berets), a smock, a bandage over my right ear, and held a palette and a brush. After that report, my fascination with van Gogh continued. In middle school, I missed a day of class to see the van Gogh exhibition at the National Gallery in D.C. Now, whenever I go to a museum that has a van Gogh painting, I have a tendency of standing and staring longer than I normally do with any other work. I even have a need to walk by a van Gogh painting before I leave, as though I'm saying good bye to it.

As far as contemporary artists go, I really admire Chuck Close's portraiture work and Gerhard Richter's paintings that look like

Eating Ithaca podcast features chef school and sandwiches - The latest Eating Ithaca podcast features guest Keith Seeber, a Finger Lakes native who recently graduated from the renowned Culinary Arts program at Johns...
4 days ago

Politics of the Plate

White Lightning: Why Does Raw Milk Spark Such Heated Debate?

- A week or so ago I drank a cold, refreshing glassful of a liquid that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) says is "inherently dangerous" and "should not..."

6 days ago

Eggs on Sunday

Maple Butterscotch Sauce - Growing up in New England, maple syrup was a definite thread woven through the fabric of my childhood. Each winter when we had our first big snowfall, my m...

1 week ago

Pour la Bouche

anniversary special... - Tuesday, I found myself in a very horrible place. As you know, my quest for food has taken me many curious and questionable places in this fine city, howev...

1 month ago

Edible Communities

Chubby ads - {loadposition contentads}

1 month ago

Big City Country Boy



After Apple Picking -Or- Where Robert Frost Went Wrong -

There are two ancient apple trees on the farm. Best guesses place them over the age of eighty, but no one is really sure. One is a yellow variety, probably...

5 months ago

Edible Queens

-

Slashfood

blurred photographs. I love how both of these artist manage to manipulate their medium in such a way that it makes it look like it is made of something entirely different.

Isn't she lovely? Her work is currently on display at the Ripley Center in Washington, D.C. Check [here](#) for other/future exhibitions. All work can be seen (and purchased) [here](#), and she also blogs [here](#).

POSTED BY JESSIE CACCIOLA

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16 COMMENTS:

[Krissy](#) said...



She does create some amazing work!
Great interview- nice to learn more about you Megan.

JULY 15, 2008 12:01 PM

[heidi](#) said...



i LOVE her work... thanks for posting the interview!

JULY 15, 2008 12:01 PM

[karina](#) said...



Jessie, thanks for that post.
I love collage and I was crazy about Vincent at school.

JULY 15, 2008 12:40 PM

[Vain and Vapid](#) said...



Such impressive pieces of art.... I'd love the see the exhibit in person.

JULY 15, 2008 6:15 PM

[That Girl Designs](#) said...



Oh, I love Megan's work. I just recently found her, and am so glad I did. Thanks for featuring her.

JULY 15, 2008 7:42 PM

irene.s said...



what a cool blog you have, love it!
great artist and the interview, i sooo love collages..still trying
to find time and inspiration to do them again.
but her work is anazing!

JULY 15, 2008 8:27 PM

Jessie Cacciola said...



thanks for stopping by, Irene, and for your sweet comment!
xo

glad you all enjoyed the interview! :)

JULY 15, 2008 9:18 PM

Hila said...



wow she's so talented! Excellent interview!!

JULY 15, 2008 10:07 PM

Sew Bettie said...



Wow! These collages are absolutely amazing. They share a
lot of similarities with Van Gogh's big brush strokes - I can
see the influence.

JULY 15, 2008 11:10 PM

Mrs.French said...



I love this sweet girl so much...her work gives me goose
bumps!

JULY 15, 2008 11:20 PM

♥ Tiny Red said...



yeah, her collages are amazing! nice interview too :)

JULY 16, 2008 2:08 PM

Jessie Cacciola said...



thanks!

JULY 16, 2008 4:10 PM