

The Layered West Coast Collage Look:

Review by Kira Shrem

Their reasons vary for doing it. Byard Pidgeon does it to awaken in the viewer a sense of abstract, almost-surreal reality. Barbara Rodway likes it because it moves away from the uncompromising clarity of photographs. And it agrees with and stimulates Lyn Bell Rose's way of thinking.

It is collage, an artform which started with Cubist painters Georges Braque and Pablo Picasso and has as many varieties as there are reasons for making them. The University of Oregon Museum of Art currently features *The Layered Look: West Coast Collage*, through Feb. 15. The exhibition of this unique art, which turns flat canvasses into three-dimensional messages through the additions of crumpled paper, overlapping images, twine, metal and other materials, displays the works of artists throughout Oregon, Washington and California.

A common factor which seems to bind collage artists together is their desire to move beyond the representation of reality and into the inspiration of fantasy. Corvallis artist Byard Pidgeon's photomontage, titled *Restructured Photograph*, is a reorganization of one photograph taken near Fern Ridge Lake. The whole image sits squarely in the center with an arrangement of the same shot cut into triangles around the periphery. The result is a three-dimensional kaleidoscope of one picture.

Pidgeon explains the evolution in his artistry to this form: "I started out using photographic paper, a moving light source and multiple exposures in what resulted in what you might call abstract expressionism based on my imagination. When I ran out of ideas using that method I decided I wanted to create abstraction and ambiguity based on reality rather than on my imagination. By reconstructing an ordinary shot in a very different way, I have created a different reality—something I can't see right in front of me."

Lake Oswego artist Barbara Rodway echoes Pidgeon's sentiments of wanting to move away from what she calls the "realistic cut-and-driedness" of some photographs, toward interpretational art. Starting out as a landscape oil painter who wanted to add some texture to her canvasses, Rodway creates handpainted-paper collages of deep russets, browns, and smoky blues which have felt like home to buyers from Oregon, Washington, Southern California and Arizona.

This to Rodway is the satisfaction in her work. "Collage is a way of doing art that allows me to be a one-of-a-kind, an original, and the beauty of it is that at the same time, it can mean something very personal to people all over the country. It stimulates their memories and their experiences," she said.

Lyn Bell Rose uses what she

calls "found objects"—labels, scraps of paper with unique lettering or designs from billboards, cans and boxes, and other memorabilia—to provide the focal point and a cohesiveness to a canvass.

The Eugene artist is careful to avoid a pat answer to the meaning behind *6 Atlantic*, titled so because the words appear several places in the piece. "Once I've done a piece, I don't like to give it poetic interpretation, as the way it's perceived is personal," she said.

And as the viewer's perception springs from private, perhaps unconscious associations, the process springs indigenous from Bell Rose. "Collage connects with my thinking. I like using things I find as the starting point and the glue that holds a piece together, but the image I produce comes out of the process of creating it. I have no preconceptions of what it will look like before it's finished. It evolves as I work," she said.

Each artist exhibited has individual reasons for choosing to make collages their primary artform, and each viewer will probably feel differently about the art displayed. But the point is not whether collage makes any sense to you or you even like it—this is a show worth seeing if for no other reason than that it challenges the participant to look within to see, sometimes surprisingly, what associations and fantasies this particular brand of art can inspire.



Old Woman Remembering Her Story by Mary Heebner, Santa Barbara, California.

**TOM'S
TEA HOUSE**
RESTAURANT

788 West 7th Avenue

<i>Featuring</i> Chef K., Hing Tom 23 years experience with Hunan & Szechwan Cuisine	Hot & Spicy Dishes from the Heartland of China. Also, Vegetarian Dishes. Phone 343-7658	Credit Cards Welcome and Diner's Club
---	--	--

Grand Opening!

Body Impressions
featuring
ACTION AEROBIC WORKOUT

- LOW IMPACT
- GROUP RATES
- CHILD CARE
- UNLIMITED CLASSES
- FOR MEN & WOMEN

FEB. 2nd thru 7th
We've moved to a new location and invite you to come celebrate with us.

FREE CLASSES

Drawings

10 TANS for \$20

FREE DINNER FOR TWO

PRIZES

Body Impressions
now at:
1091 Olive St. **683-4038**
Eugene, OR 97401

Chlamydia is

- ☐ a new rock group
- ☐ a type of pasta
- ☐ a sexually transmitted disease

If you've never heard of Chlamydia (pronounced kla-MID-e-uh), you're not alone. If you've ever had Chlamydia, you're also not alone.

Chlamydia is the most common sexually transmitted disease in America today.

It can cause serious infection and infertility. Often there are no symptoms until the damage is done.

Silent . . . destructive . . . but curable if detected early.

Planned Parenthood now offers Chlamydia testing with routine exams.

Planned Parenthood
134 E. 13th • Eugene • 344-9411