

AROUND TOWN/Megan Coyle's Collage Obsession

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By [Gale Curcio](#)

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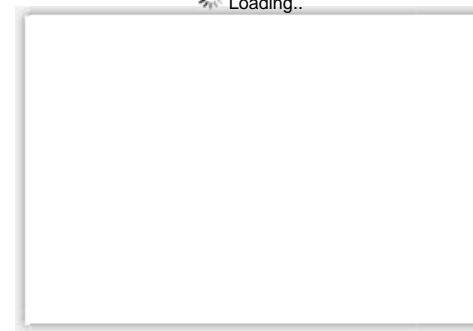


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EDITORIAL COLUMNS

From Margo Osborne

Blue Rhino by Megan Coyle.

ALEXANDRIA, VA. - **Megan Coyle** likes to tear pages out of magazines.

It is a habit that she acquired in high school, but it is not an idle habit.

Instead, it is part of a concentrated effort by this collage artist who takes common, everyday magazines and turns them into works of art. She depicts cityscapes, landscapes, animals, still life and portraits by combining sketches with layers of collage.

The result is an intriguing combination of color, texture and pattern that presents itself in her artwork. Several of these pieces are currently on display in the mezzanine section at **Red Rocks Napoletana** in Old Town.

Last week, Coyle and guests gathered at **Red Rocks Napoletana** for the opening reception for Collage: Painting with Paper, an Exhibition of Works by Megan Coyle.

This is the second in The Firebricks and Frames Exhibition Series, a collaboration between **Gallery Thirteen** and **Red Rocks Napoletana**. The brainchild of **Kevin J. Bailey**, he said, "This is an interest of mine – I like to do 'out of the box' ideas. We want to encourage people to visit the restaurant and view the works of local artists. The artists are very excited about it."

Bailey introduced Coyle to the crowd, who explained how she uses a sketch as an outline and then starts cutting out pages from magazines based on colors and light. She starts gluing the pieces on top of the drawing, working in the foreground and background. When she is finished, she varnishes with a protective finish.

Coyle started doing collage in high school, but it was the more traditional style. All of Coyle's works to date are filled with color, except for one with a hippo that was done in black and white for a juried show. Coyle said that she may explore working more with black and white.

"My favorite piece is the hippo," said Coyle. "It was inspired by a trip to the zoo. He stuck his tongue out and I liked the story line."

Coyle said in her artist statement, "I was once told that when I draw or paint, I shouldn't draw objects or people as I see them in my mind. Instead, I should pay attention to every detail in front of me—focusing on the shapes of colors that make up different planes. Over the years, I've continued to follow this advice and it has become a central idea behind my work.

"Although I was trained in painting, over the years, I was consistently drawn to collage. I believe that my



Courtesy Photo
Downtown Cafe by Megan Coyle.



Photo by Gale Curcio/Local Kicks
Megan Coyle talks to guest at the opening reception of The Firebricks and Frames Exhibition Series, a collaboration between Gallery Thirteen and Red Rocks Napoletana.



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attachment to the medium is rooted in the way I approach every subject as an artist. I'm constantly breaking down what I see into smaller pieces, piecing together each area bit by bit, occasionally stepping back to see the work in its entirety."

The series, featuring two-dimensional artwork, kicked off last month with works by **Marsha Brown**. Bailey said that they had about 70 people for that opening. The series will continue through the end of the year.

The Firebricks & Frames Exhibition Series will feature seven artists whose work will span several mediums. Each month during the series, a different artist will be featured with his or her artwork hung in Red Rocks for display and purchase.

Complimentary wine will be served at the opening receptions and there will be additional food and drink specials at the opening receptions. It is a great way to support your local artists, as well as an opportunity to view the private dining space available at RedRocks for groups of 25 or less.

Firebricks & Frames Featured Artists

June – Marsha Brown: *Lighthearted Moments*

July – Megan Coyle: *Collage: Painting with Paper*

August – Bonnie Ferguson Butler: *Breeze By*

September – Camden Noir: *camden noir*

October – Tracy Wilkerson: *Reclaimed Message*

November – Jessica Hopkins: *Mercurial 83*

December – Vaughn Cottman: *Wilderness Trails*



Photo by Gale Curcio/Local Kicks

Guests listen to an introduction by Megan Coyle at the opening reception of The Firebricks and Frames Exhibition Series, a collaboration between Gallery Thirteen and Red Rocks Napoletana.

Red Rocks is located at 904 King Street in Old Town. For more information on the series and reception dates, please contact Stephen Bailey at sbailey@gallery13events.com.