

## **The Art League**

105 North Union Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
703-683-1780  
[www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org)

Media Contact:

Erica Fortwengler  
Director of Communications  
[ericaf@theartleague.org](mailto:ericaf@theartleague.org)  
703-683-1780 x 27

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Megan Coyle's Solo Exhibit, Stories in Paper July 8 – August 2, 2010**

At a glance, Megan Coyle's images deceptively appear to be slightly abstracted paintings. But upon closer inspection, the viewer can see the surface of the "painting" dissolves into bits of paper. Her images are not paintings, but collages carefully crafted from small pieces of magazine photos. **Stories in Paper**, Coyle's solo exhibit at The Art League Gallery, explores images and scenes of day-to-day life using an unconventional medium and method to create sophisticated images.

Coyle reconstructs the picture surface by breaking down the human form into different planes – the body, face, and the folds in the clothing. She builds up the surface and texture by layering different shapes of paper, or peels away pieces to let previous layers shine through. "Utilizing this method allows me to create artwork that captures the essence of a painting, but broadens my palette to include textures, pattern, and fragments of photographs from magazines."

"My process is pretty straight forward. First I sketch out the composition while using multiple photographs as references. I pour through piles of magazines and tear out pages that have the colors and patterns that I have in mind. I cut out shapes of color and affix them where I want them. I block in the color bit by bit, eventually layering shapes, and finally creating a finished piece. Lastly, I paint a matte varnish on top of the collage as a UV protectant."

Coyle graduated in 2008 from Elon University in North Carolina with a BA in painting and creative writing. Her work has been exhibited throughout the region in venues including the Smithsonian Ripley Center, Fisher Gallery, Nicholas Colasanto Center, and The Art League Gallery. She was recently accepted into the Visiting Artist program at the Torpedo Factory Art Center for the summer of 2010.

In The Art League Gallery:

Stories in Paper: July 8 – August 2, 2010

Opening Reception and Artist Talk: Thursday, July 8, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Artist Talk: Blogging for Artists with Megan Coyle: Thursday, July 15, 7:00 – 8:00 pm