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Collage Art Makes a Comeback

Posted by Ryan Cornell / Tuesday, January 22nd, 2013



D.C. Collage Scapes features many familiar city sights, such as the National Museum of the American Indian. Photo courtesy of Megan Coyle.

Where: [Arts Club of Washington](#), 2017 I St. NW, Washington, D.C.
When: Feb. 1 through 23
Cost: Free
Call: 202-331-7282
Online: [mcoyle.com](#)

Some people throw out their magazines as soon as they're finished reading them. Others keep them stacked up in piles of silverfish-inhabited fire hazards for 29 weeks—that's the average lifespan of an old magazine anyway—before sending them on their dearly departed way. [Megan Coyle](#) keeps her magazines forever.

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...Or at least until someone buys them. That's because the Alexandria-based artist takes magazines (fashion ones are her favorite) and uses them to create collages of people, animals, flowers, cups of coffee, Boston Terriers and scenes in Washington, D.C. The last of which is the subject of her [D.C. Collage Scapes](#) exhibition held at the [Arts Club of Washington](#) next month.

Coyle started making collages in her art classes at T.C. Williams and would sometimes experiment with magazines as a medium, but it wasn't until later at Elon College that she fully committed to becoming an artist.



Coyle mentions this collage, "Benjamin," as one that came together quickly and easily. Photo courtesy of Megan Coyle.

In 2010, she was a Visiting Artist at the [Torpedo Factory Art Center](#) and had her own studio, but now she sometimes puts together her pieces in her apartment kitchen. Armed with a gluestick and scissors, she flips through her stack of magazines—she says she initially racked up a few subscriptions, but now her friends just give her all of their old ones—and looks for textures and patterns that fit the image she's trying to create.

"You're never quite sure what you'll get," Coyle says. "There's really interesting and intricate patterns. It's always a surprise."

If the collages don't look all that different from paintings to you, that was done intentionally. Coyle uses a method she calls "painting with paper" where she takes magazine strips and manipulates them into swaths of color that imitate brushstrokes.

We can only wonder if any bits of Northern Virginia Magazine made it into her art.



She would take trips into the city with her camera, scouting for hidden pockets of natural landscape. Photo courtesy of Megan Coyle.

An opening reception for the exhibit will be held on Feb. 1 at 6:30 p.m.

An advertisement for Engle Paxson & Hawthorne Insurance Services, LLC. At the top, it says "Best Practices" with "HABA" in a small circle above it, and "2011 Best Practices Agency" below. Below that, it lists "Business • Life • Health Home • Auto Insurance". There is a call to action: "Click here for a Commitment to Excellence" with a mouse cursor icon pointing to it. Below the call to action is the company logo, which consists of the letters "EP&H" in a blue box with white wavy lines underneath. At the bottom, it says "Engle Paxson & Hawthorne INSURANCE SERVICES, LLC".