

Fall 2014

From the Artist

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Recommended Citation

Meresz, Jade (2014) "From the Artist," *CutBank*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 81 , Article 16.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank/vol1/iss81/16>

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From the Artist

I'm drawn to the way in which things come together in mixed media collage. The interaction between found materials is unpredictable and, often, what you thought might work doesn't and then something new forms. Add to that the sometimes intentional, sometimes accidental embellishment of other media like ink and paint, and everything just comes to be sort of on its own.

My process begins with collecting as many images as I can. I scour books and magazines and compile pages that I respond to immediately or find myself spending time to inspect. I have some images that have sat for years, some I've looked at a hundred times before using, and some I'm eager to use immediately. A lot of times my materials are just things I happen upon or gifts from friends. Often, it's free books and magazines given away by the public library. I try to cut out what is usable, how I think it might be usable, without removing anything excess before I know more clearly how and where it will go. From there I put images together, move them around, put them with other images, and mostly just stare and think about whether I'm ready to commit something I'd love to use a million different ways to one thing. I'll take pictures of various configurations and stare at those for some time, too. Eventually I'll get impatient and just take the plunge. I'll cut and paste and draw and splatter ink—whatever feels right—almost with abandon until it's all done, and it feels like it's been there all along. I just couldn't see it until it happened and finished itself.

Like most of my collages, these pieces were subject to whatever limited source materials I had to work with at the time. Most often, any themes that appear in my work are governed by a combination of this and things by which I am personally fascinated. Outer space, rocks and minerals, creatures of all sorts, and the interplay of color mixed with black & white images are things I continually gravitate toward. Perhaps subconsciously, perhaps coincidentally, the titles for all of these pieces contain the word "in."