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2D Tweet at Eyedrum

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

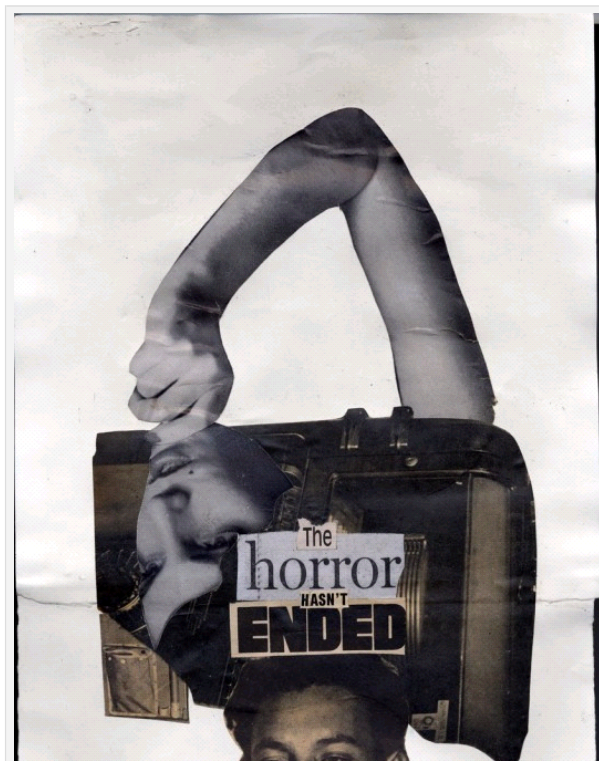
By k.tauches



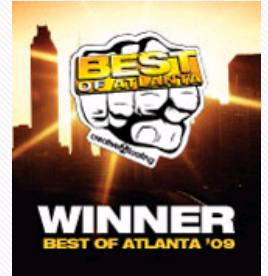
Jeff Taylor, Halo Galo, 2008

There's no need to ever take another picture of a house, a dog, or a sunset. If you open up a magazine or an old newspaper, or if you do an image search online, you will find plenty of what you need. This is a symptom of our age: We hastily cut and paste things together every day in an effort to communicate. This said, it's an extremely appropriate time for an exhibit about collage.

Mandie Turner-Mitchell's curation at [Eyedrum](#) attempts to make the contemporary connection between more traditional collage work and the information culture of the Internet. She explains, in typical Eyedrum fashion, "Collage is the blogging of the second dimension and blogging is collaging in the virtual dimension, whichever one that is." Although the philosophy behind this curation is sound as well as provocative, beyond the title exists no actual reference to this idea in the show itself. At the very least, the posting of an essay is sorely needed. If one overlooks this technicality, however, the actual works on display are classic, refreshing collages made by locals: crude, honest and naïve. **Jeff Taylor's** three collages are just strong enough to make me wonder what else he has in his studio. These works present sloppily layered transparencies with repetitious, stenciled images on top of paint and canvas. The largest one, *Easy Armed Reach*, is quite successful. It seems to have a painted, blue message at its core, but all that remains visible is "tree." The colors clash in brightness, helping the work achieve dimensionality. Some kind of framing technique that hides the edges might have been helpful. Mostly I hate frames, but in this particular case, the raw edges detract from the work.



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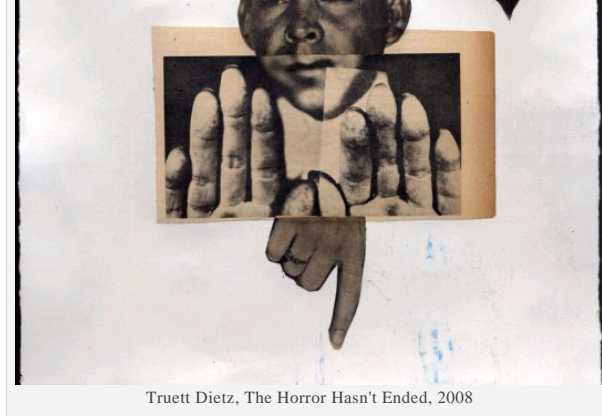
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Truett Dietz, The Horror Hasn't Ended, 2008

Examples of what I would call “classic collage,” Harold McNaron’s works are like short poetry. My favorites are the simple ones with lots of background space: *culture kite* and *soundboard swatch*. McNaron’s use of found frames is a nice touch. **Truett Dietz** is a bit spicier in his classicism. Creamy found papers hang vertically by clips; glued on top are sparse combinations of black and white newspaper and color vintage clippings. His titles are humorously political: *Women In Space*, *Not If I Can Help It* and *American Den Of Serpents*. Both artists rely on original clippings without using computers to scan and reprint. The downside of such simplicity is limitation of scale. I’m glad this Stan Woodard’s very small collages investigate this issue: They have been blown up, but unfortunately the originals are nowhere in sight. In Woodard’s case, Turner-Mitchell could have simply pasted a very long arrow down the hall to his studio, which is in itself a magnificent installation of three-dimensional collaged materials and lights. I’m not sure why this proximity was not exploited. An outlying participant is Hollis Hildebrand-Mills, whose more mature collage work is in the adjacent small gallery. The awesome muzak that plays over her collage video piece bleeds out over the rest of the show on a quiet afternoon stroll through the gallery. It’s too bad her video is not hovering over the main space since it might have added that contemporary element the show needs to complete its thesis.

The exhibit 2D Tweet is on view at Eyedrum through Saturday, December 19, 2009.

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This entry was posted on Wednesday, December 16th, 2009 at 8:00 am and is filed under [Art Reviews](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#) feed.


3 Responses to “2D Tweet at Eyedrum”

 **Kombo** December 16, 2009 at 2:50 pm

The stuff was a’aight, par for the course. On a related note – I generally prefer matte, old, fibrous paper to glossy paper in collage, and I abhor any mixing of the two, it just kills the cohesion of the piece. But if one simply must use that photo of a scantily clad fashion nymph, a neat trick to fake that ‘aged’ look aged is to leave the paper soaking overnight in a tray of water with some detergent in it. The next day just gently roll a furry tennis ball over the paper to scuff it up a little. Yes, there are other ways, but I’m a tennis nut and this one works for me.


“Its Afro-Futurism, bay-bay” – (:3(!)

#4173 

 **Allen Welty-Green** December 17, 2009 at 11:46 am


The “awesome muzak” is a track from Peter Gabriel's “Passion” (aka the soundtrack to “The Last Temptation of Christ”), itself essentially an audio collage of Gabriel's world music influences.

Never thought of PG's music as “muzak” though...

#4176 

Weekend Arts Agenda: Ugly sweaters, good art | Culture Surfing December 18, 2009 at 1:54 am

[...] Iri5, Harold McNaron, Sara Shelton, Stan Woodard, Jeff Taylor and Truez Dietz. Burn Away has a full run down of the show, which closes on [...]

#4182 

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