



JEN DYCK

Collages

The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

Contemporary Drawing, Sculpture and Works on Paper

Jen Dyck
Collages

May 11 - June 22, 2013

HEADBONES GALLERY

Artist Catalog: Jen Dyck - Collages
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This catalog was created for the exhibition of Jen Dyck and Steve Mennie
at Headbones Gallery, Vernon, BC Canada, May 11 - June 22, 2013

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Close Call commentary by Julie Oakes
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Gallery.
www.headbonesgallery.com

Front Cover: *Third Rate Romance* - 2012, Collage on panel, 16x16 inches
Back Cover: *Brown Eyed Susans* - 2012, Collage on panel, 16x16 inches

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RICH FOG



Micro Publishing
Vernon Canada

Jen Dyck

Collages

Commentary by Julie Oakes



Jen Dyck collages at Headbones Gallery - 2013



Sleeping Beauty - 2012, Collage on panel, 12x12

Jen Dyck

Close Call

The intimacy of Jen Dyck's collages act as a direct channel into the psyche. Each piece requires a close examination. The subject is caught, unaware of the perusing eye so that a tendency towards voyeurism can be satisfied. Since it is impolite to stare at human oddness, within the scope of observance, some settings are banned from close scrutiny if not invited. Yet curiosity shapes not only the areas chosen for study but also the variety and depth of knowledge. To take a long, objective look – a good stare – at things quite freaky is a pleasant sensation. If a longer duration is rewarded with increasing information, the sense of fulfillment is greater.

Dyck's scenarios are weird, even when they depict familiar situations. She offers more complexity than a common sum up. A face is quite often not one face

but many. The perspective from which the face is viewed varies. The handling of the face is not always careful indicating that Dyck's consideration for the assembled characters has oscillated between careful cuts, ragged rips and overlaps. She even adds folds and tucks. The quality of the original material comes to 'the paste' in varied conditions. Rather than trying to correct an old fold or a worn page, it is allowed to exist with a patina of time left uncorrected.

Collage grants a liberty of associations to the artist and Dyck has taken full advantage of her freedom. This is a plebeian art, an art for the people, first used by the Dadaists who realised that the advent of the printing press didn't necessarily inhibit an artist's creation. Images could be commonly owned rather than the specificity of authorship that constituted artworks up until the advent of printed matter. The Dadaists used collage to reference reality while still dealing in abstraction. Dyck's collages are more like the surrealist's oeuvre. They are reminiscent of the dream works of Max Ernst who used collage to present a juxtaposition of images within a frame that could then create new relationships between the images thus imitating the touch-and-go, illogical world of the sleeping mind.

It is a task to gain attention in a world over-run with images and sensations. Dyck's work commands engagement once it has been gained. The small journey from the distance to peer closely at the work enables a closer proximity to the interior musings of another mind. To enter into a simpatico with one of the quotidian



Opening Night - 2011, Collage on panel, 12x12

groupings within the exhibition, it is not necessary to understand the subtleties or ranking of the larger art world. Dyck hits a popular mark.

Built on her dreams, the work depicts interior physical spaces where people interact. They are constructed of snippets from National Geographic, Life, ladies journals - whatever magazine is worthy of her cull. The rooms are peopled with characters in zany situations charged with the illogical inventions and happenstance of her remembered sleeping state and they result in a wacky celebration of the emotional states that make up the sociological fabric of our life and times. They depict contemporary affairs, not specific to place. Dyck alludes to where we are at in our heads. Often containing a humorous jab at personal situations, Dyck's collages act like the best comedies - employing wit, cynicism, criticism and sardonic strategy to bring the pathos of the human condition into play.

Despite the utterly contemporary

components (media crops), many of the collages suggest other times or places such as the Dutch interiors of Vermeer, genre paintings, stage sets, filmic concept drawings or retro fittings. The palettes have a designed, premeditated determination.

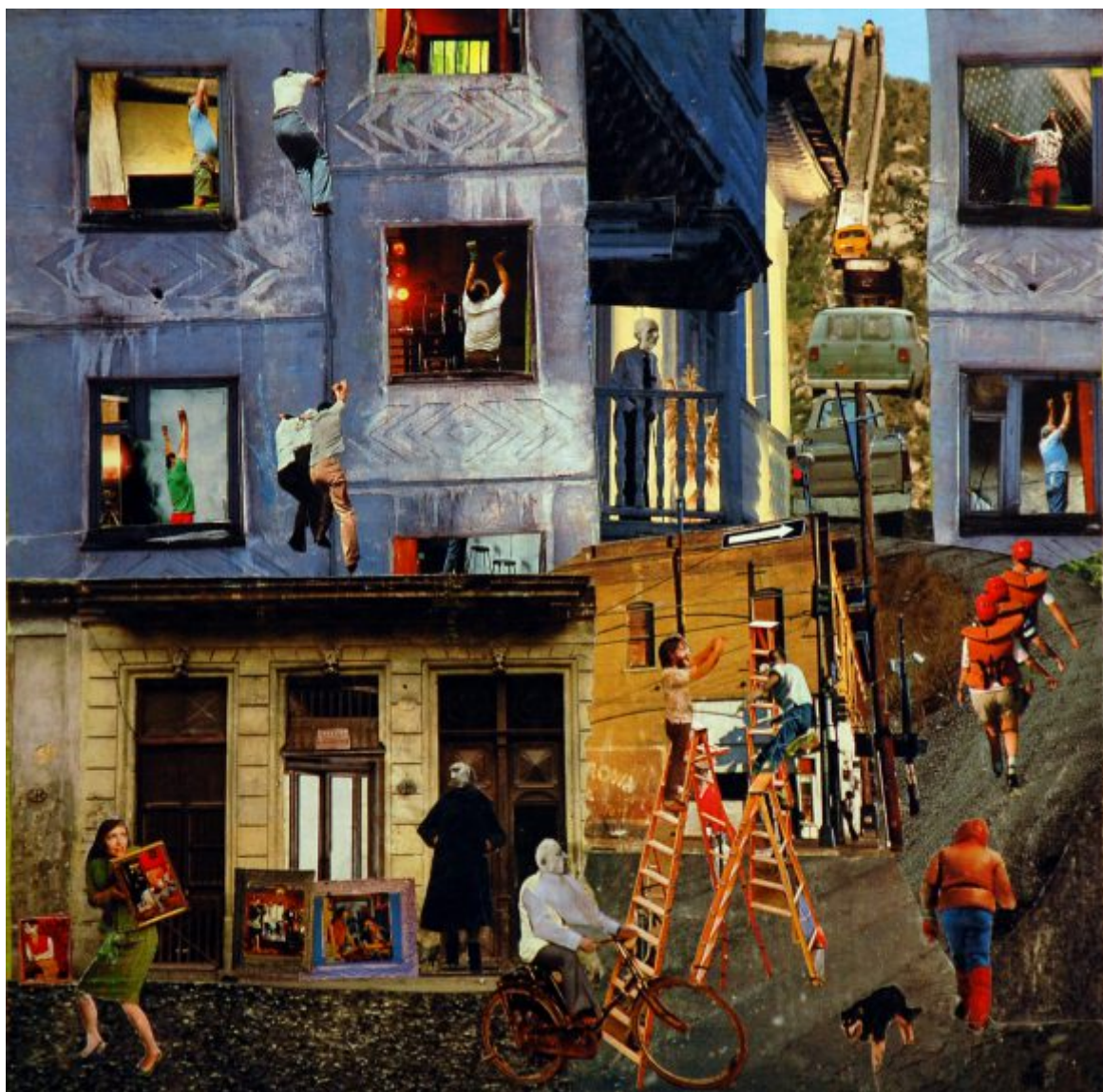
"I dreamt of baking bread. Then a man rose from the stove ... and that was the beginning of the piece *Potluck*," explains Jen Dyck. A mannequin with a rusty colouring is perched atop a fireplace but what follows around the periphery of the central theme is harder to deconstruct. There are double-vision doorways like frames from one action picking up a sequence. The precise story of *Potluck* escapes from sight. It is as if something has been put into motion and witnessed without all of the reasons revealed so that a nonsense world is framed in stop motion. Yet an uncanny familiarity in the work haunts, like a nudge in the ribs of awareness.

Julie Oakes, 2013



Potluck - 2013, Collage on panel, 16x16 inches

Sales Are Down - 2013
Collage on panel, 12x12 inches



Ground Floor - 2013
Collage on panel, 16x16 inches



On All Floors - 2013
Collage on panel, 16x16 inches



Grandpa Gets Married - 2013
Collage on panel, 12x12 inches



Try Singing Into A Metaphor - 2013

Collage on panel, 12x12 inches



Mrs Schellenberg Looks In - 2013

Collage on panel, 12x12 inches



Preparing For The Miracle - 2012

Collage on panel, 16x16 inches



Items of Business - 2013
Collage on panel, 12x12 inches



Serious Woman Business - 2012

Collage on panel, 16x20 inches



Maiden Voyage - 2012
Collage on panel, 16x20 inches



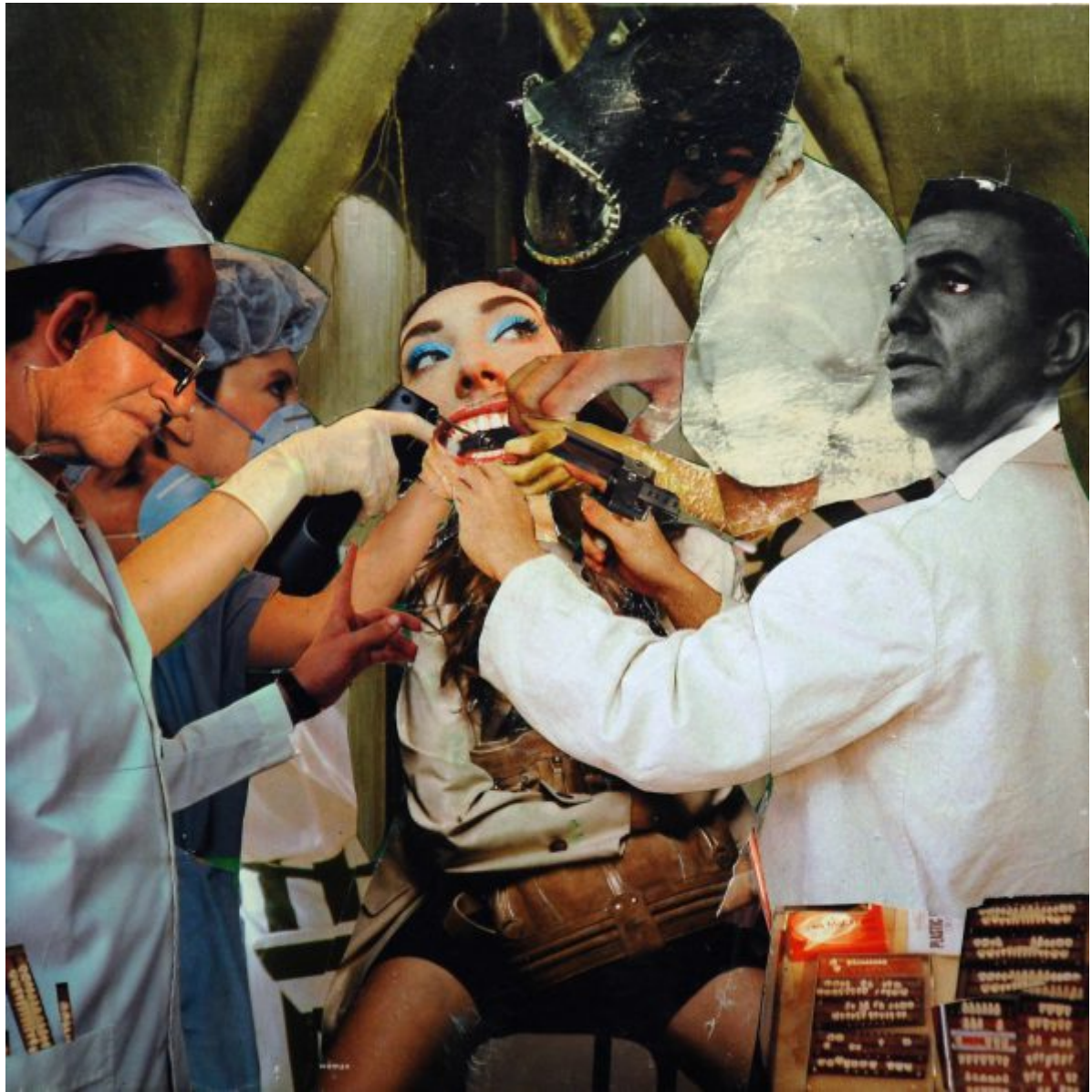
Set Gone Wrong - 2012
Collage on panel, 16x16 inches



You Can't Stop Me - 2012
Collage on panel, 16x16 inches



Cosmic Makeover - 2012
Collage on panel, 16x16 inches



Negotiations In The Subway - 2012

Collage on panel, 12x12 inches



Polka Dot High Heels - 2012
Collage on panel, 16x16 inches



Undertaking - 2012
Collage on panel, 16x16 inches



Domestic Arts - 2012
Collage on panel, 12x12 inches



Dolls Gathering Dust On The Seventh Floor - 2012

Collage on panel, 12x12 inches



The Next Supper - 2012
Collage on panel, 16x20 inches



Waiting Room - 2012
Collage on panel, 16x16 inches



Up For Grabs - 2011
Collage on panel, 16x16 inches



Ten Ten - 2011
Collage on panel, 12x14 inches



Group Portrait - 2011
Collage on panel, 16x16 inches





Jen Dyck - *Salmon Arm Studio*, 2013

JEN DYCK

BORN 1953 Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

EDUCATION

1975 Piano Performers Diploma from the Royal Conservatory of Music, U of Toronto
1981 Art instruction with teachers under the umbrella of the Brandon Arts Council
1987 University of Winnipeg with a degree in Classics
99-02 Mentored with Steve Mennie

EXHIBITIONS

1998 SAGA Public Art Gallery, Salmon Arm, BC. Group show. "Annual Members Show."
1999 SAGA Public Art Gallery. Group show. "Shuswap Artist Annual Exhibition."
2001 SAGA. Group show. "Shuswap Artists Open Exhibition."
2002 SAGA. Group show. "Shuswap Artists."
Hudson Ave. Gallery, Salmon Arm, BC. Solo\Exhibition. "About Face."
SAGA. Group show. "For the Love of Music."
Tappen Gallery, Tappen, BC. With Steve Mennie. "Homemade Show and Sale."
Kamloops Public Art Gallery, Kamloops, BC. Group show. "Christmas at the Gallery."
2003 SAGA. Group show. "Shuswap Artists."
Sun Rivers Show, Kamloops, BC. Group show.
SAGA. Group show.
Kamloops Public Art Gallery. Group show. "Christmas at the Gallery."
Pavillion Theatre, Kamloops, BC. Group show.
2004 SAGA. Group show. "Shuswap Artists."
Kamloops Public Art Gallery. Solo show in The Cube. "Simple Riffs."
Wallace Galleries, Calgary, Alberta. Group show. "Mother's Day."
2005 Kamloops Art Gallery, Kamloops, BC. "Urban Insights". Home Movies: a film
2006 The Drawers - Headbones, Toronto. 'Narrative?'
2010 Courthouse Gallery, Salmon Arm. Group show.
2011 Courthouse Gallery, Salmon Arm. Group show
SAGA Public Art Gallery, Salmon Arm. 'Peak Year'.
2012 SAGA Public Art Gallery, Salmon Arm. 'Brainstorm'.
2013 SOPA Fine Art Gallery, Kelowna, BC. 'U8'
Headbones Gallery, Vernon, BC. Jen Dyck & Steve Mennie.

HEADBONES GALLERY

Presents

***Jen Dyck
& Steve Mennie***

Exhibition

May 11 - June 22, 2013

Opening Reception 6-9 pm

Saturday, May 9, 2013

6700 Old Kamloops Rd., Vernon, BC V1H 1P8

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Hours: Tue-Sat 12-6pm

