



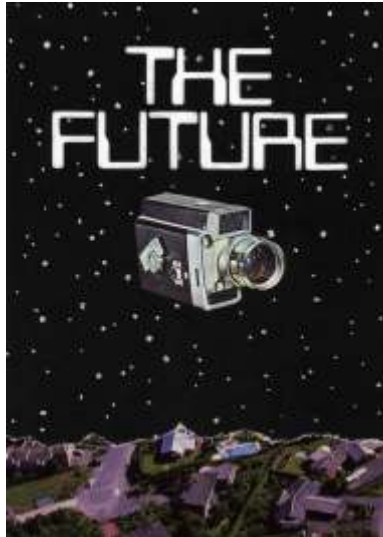
# The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

*Contemporary Drawing, Sculpture and Works on Paper*

Ed Varney

For Font's Sake

April 5 - May 15, 2007



Commentary by Julie Oakes

Ed Varney

For Font's Sake

April 5 - May 15, 2007

Artist Catalog, 'Ed Varney - Headbones Gallery, The Drawers '  
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Director: Richard Fogarty  
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# Ed Varney

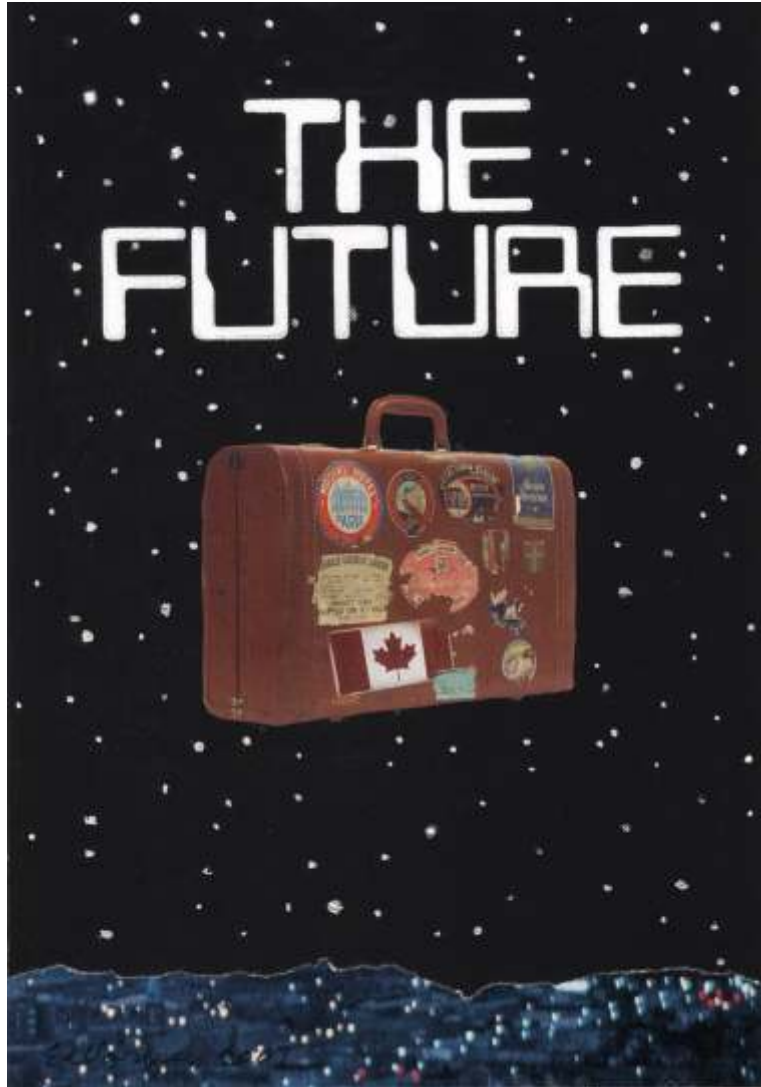
*Julie Oakes*

THE FUTURE, in capital letters, will always be a vague and philosophical notion. It is also rife with cliché and our imagination, although it can extend towards that unavoidable time, tends to clothe the future in sci-fi imagery. Ed Varney lays down a digital premise as the ground for the collage - a starry sky with a technological design to the lettering of 'the future'. He addresses the earth, gravitationally situated, backlit by a rip. His choice of earth imagery varies from vague semblances to city lighting or an undersea shot to more graphic depictions that we recognize as 'earth'. With one collage element juxtaposing the set-up location, he floats a new idea, this time pristinely cut out and pasted so that it could be a digital rather than a virtual application.

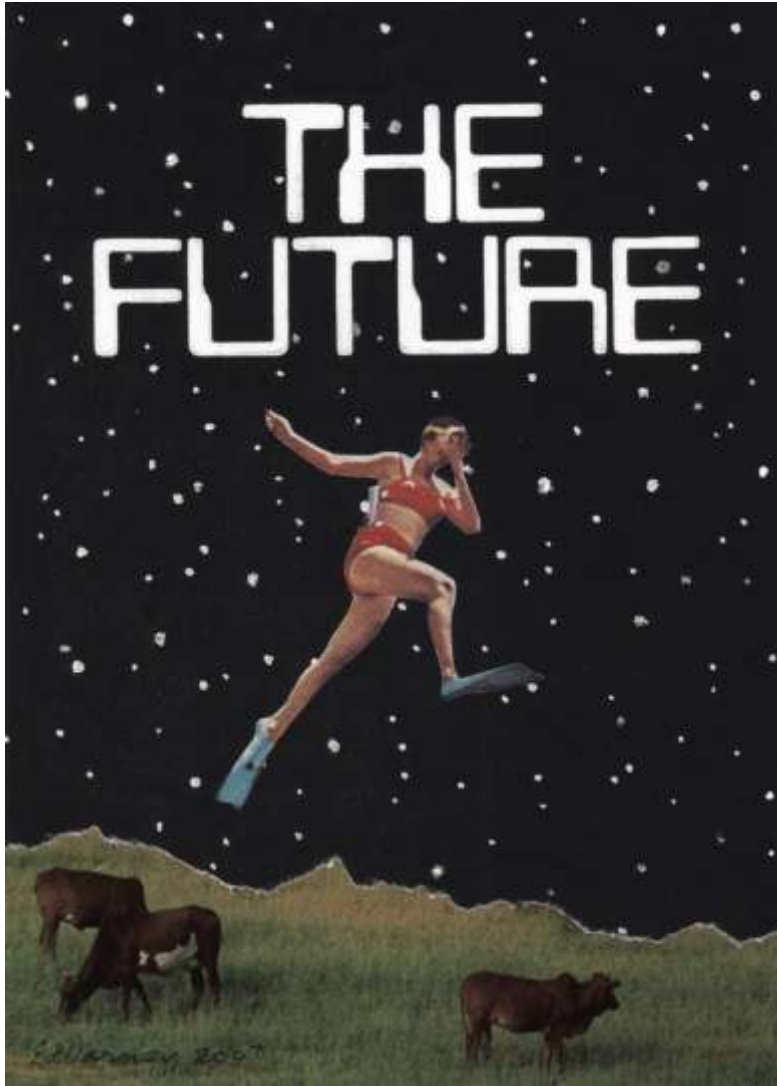
By describing the object in each piece and stating what is seen, the message comes through. For example, "A vehicle with open doors floats over a landscape" or "A snorkel clad woman leaps into space above a field of cows." Crazy disconnects in an eerie silence slows down the movement towards The Future as we attempt to make sense out of the diverse items. There is a stock taking in place where the random associations of elements may or may not be clueing us into the mysterious and unknowable future. Instead, a singular idea of the future is clarified, a visual moment that could be as possible as any other visualization of The Future. The dominating words, however, are what promotes the inquiry into the reason that the particular 'earth' and 'object' has been paired off. It is a clever way of approaching the union between text and image and balancing the weight and importance of the concepts suggested by both the words and the visuals.

The pen and ink words that make up the pieces *War* and *Peace* also vacillate between text and image but this time it is the tracing of the silhouettes of the letter, an act of the artist's hand, that is the visual element and the words, addressing monumental themes, are carefully recorded by the unusual process. Varney, with a life long dual practice as both a poet and a visual artist, exercises a sensitive power-of-one in the painstaking process, with the words using the alliteration and grammatical construction to put forth the messages.

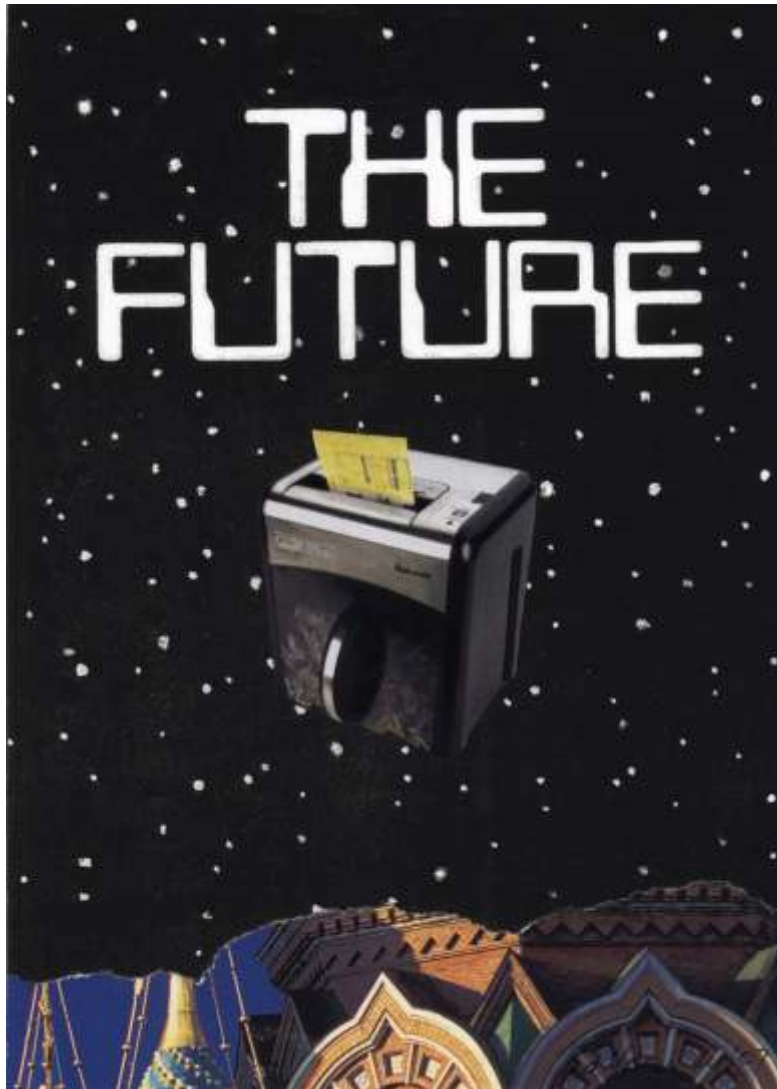
Ed's work has been text based from the get-go. A co-founder of Intermedia Press, Vancouver, an active poet, and a versatile potentate of multiples, he has galvanized the diverse output of artists far from his geographical area. He was one of the early initiators of mailing correspondence projects dating back to *Junk Bonds* and continuing through his famous stamp editions. Both the insides and outsides of envelopes, globe trotting from post box to mail bag to destination, have displayed the results of his generated visuals. He is a puppet master, pitting and playing Word with Visual in a manner that, like the familiarity of Punch and Judy, tackles the problems of our everyday concerns in a recognizable way.



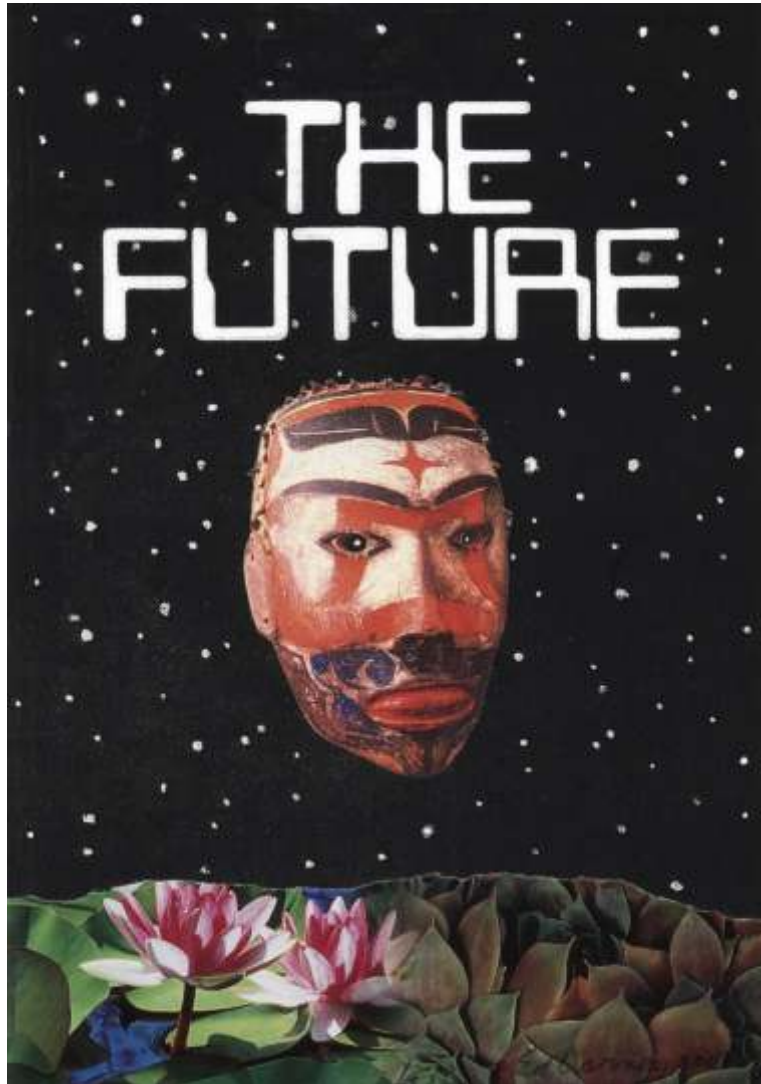
The Future #1  
collage, 7 x 5 inches  
2007



The Future #2  
collage, 7 x 5 inches  
2007

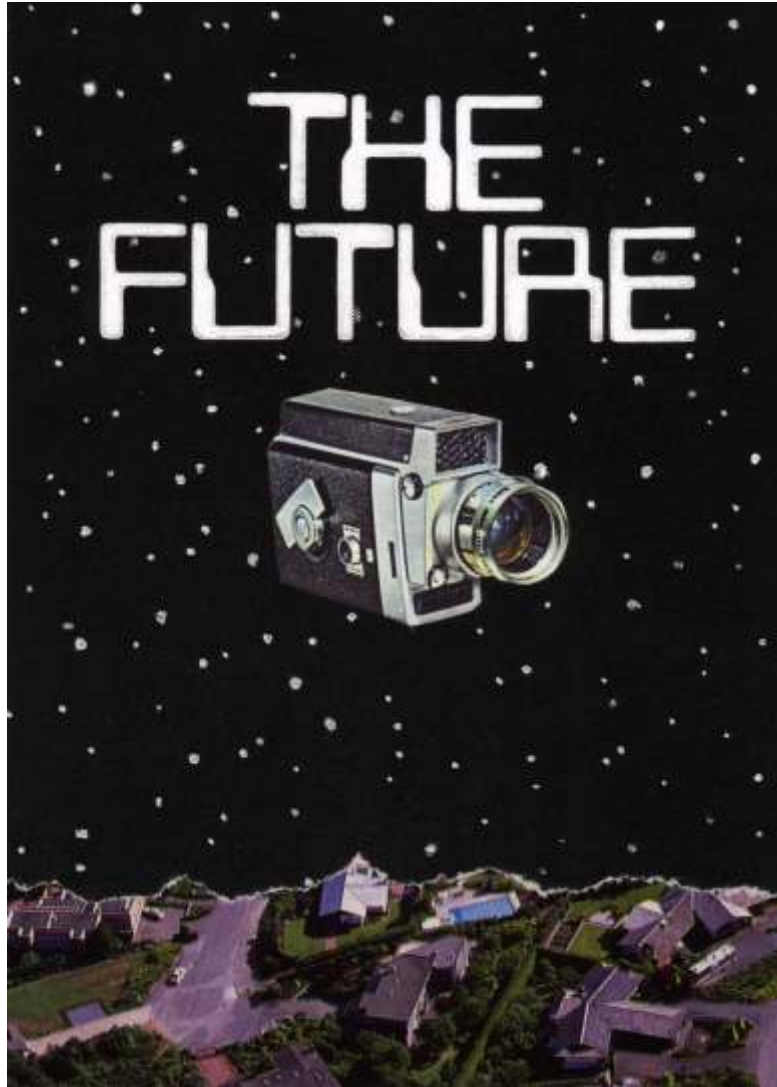


The Future #3  
collage, 7 x 5 inches  
2007

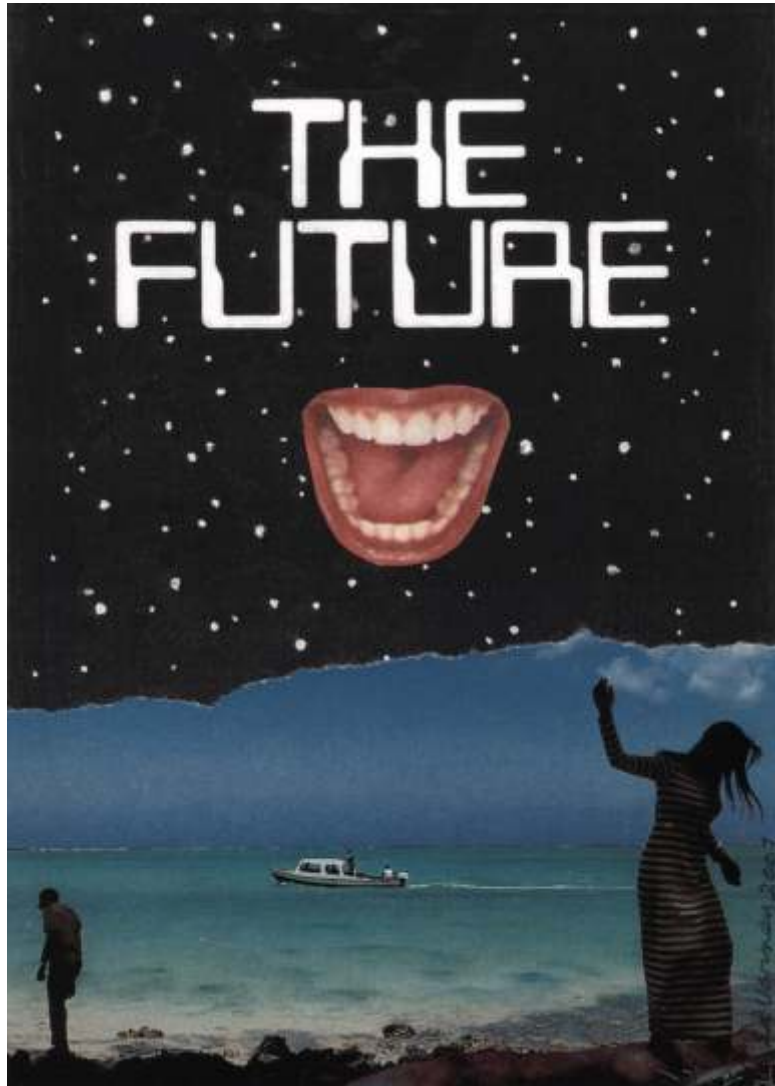


The Future #4  
collage, 7 x 5 inches  
2007

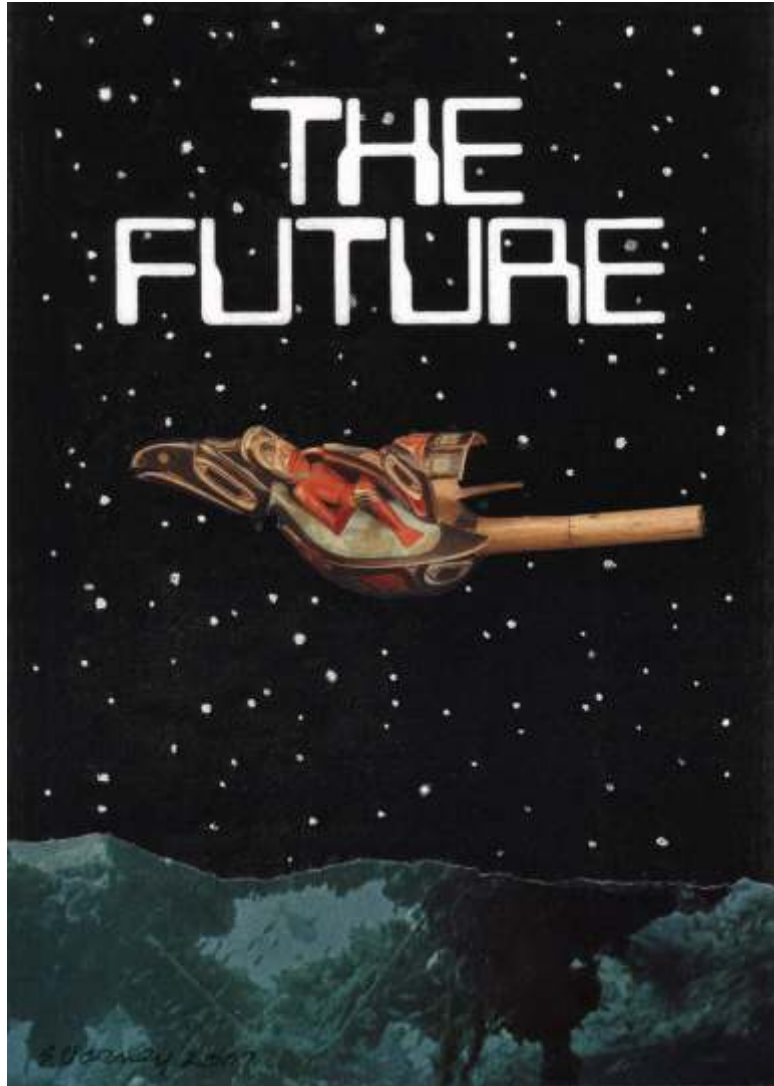




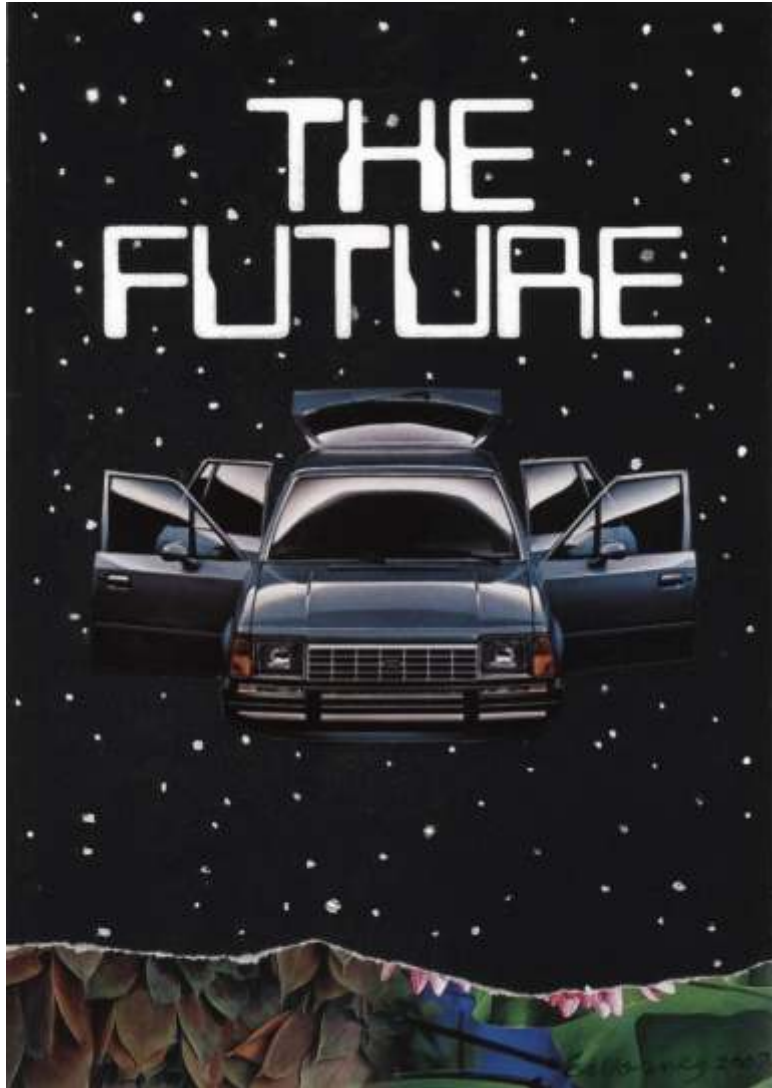
The Future #5  
collage, 7 x 5 inches  
2007



The Future #6  
collage, 7 x 5 inches  
2007



The Future #7  
collage, 7 x 5 inches  
2007



The Future #8  
collage, 7 x 5 inches  
2007

WAR IS  
VILE, OBSCENE,  
BARBARIC, FOUL,  
CORRUPT, STUPID,  
SENSELESS,  
HORRIFYING,  
ABSURD, FUTILE,  
IMMORAL, BLIND,  
DEVIANT, DULL,  
DANGEROUS,  
DEBILITATING  
AND WASTEFUL.

*Ed Varnes 2006*

War & Peace  
pen & ink, diptych, 17 x 11 inches  
2006

PEACE IS NOT  
ABOUT DOVES.  
PEACE IS ABOUT  
A COMMUNAL  
COMMITMENT TO  
CO-OPERATION,  
CONCILIATION,  
CONCESSION AND  
COMPASSION.

*Ed Varney 2006*

War & Peace  
pen & ink, diptych, 17 x 11 inches  
2006



Ed Larnay 2006

Art Looks Like Play  
 rubber stamp & water colour, 17 x 11 inches  
 2006



# Ed Varney

## EDUCATION:

B.A. (Cum Laude), 1965; M.A., 1967 - Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York

## GRANTS:

Canada Council Performance Grant, 1989.

## SELECTED EXHIBITIONS: (21st Century)

- 2007 **Firescape**, Northcutt Steele Gallery, Billings, Montana, January 19 - February 16. Catalogue.  
**Parastamp: Four Decades of Artistamps from Fluxus to the Internet**, Curated by Gyorgy Galantai, Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest, Hungary, March 23 - June 24.  
**For Font's Sake**, curated by Julie Cowan, Headbones Gallery, Toronto Canada, April 5 - May 15. Catalogue.  
**Mayworks: Work, Work, Work**, organized by Ed Varney, Arrowsmith Gallery, Parksville, Canada, May 1 - 30. Catalogue.
- 2006 **My World**, curated by M. Brett, Durham Gilesgate College, Durham, England, January 7 28.  
**Surrealist Festival**, curated by Ron Sakolsky, Carnegie Center, Vancouver, Canada, February 20 -23.  
**Oceanside Juried Show**, (Best of Show), Parksville Community Centre, Parksville, Canada, March 2 - 5.  
**The Republic of Artists**, curated by Giancarlo da Lio and Tiziana Barrachi, Venice, Italy, April 25 - May 12.  
**Mayworks; Working Without a Net**, curated by Bill Friesen and Marci Katz, Oceanside Gallery, Parksville  
**Mayworks Artist Trading Card Exhibition**, organized by Ed Varney, Arrowsmith Gallery, Parksville, Canada, May 1 - 30. Catalogue.  
**Art & Ideas: 18 Artists from Home and Abroad**, curated by Elizabeth Russell, Comox Valley Art Gallery, Courtenay, Canada, August 5 - September 30. Catalogue.  
**2a Exposição de Arte Postal**, Clube Millenium bcp, Furadoro, Portugal, August 5 - September 7. Catalogue.  
**Eastside Culture Crawl**, Quattro Pose Gallery, Vancouver, Canada, November 24 - 26.
- 2005 **Artistamps**, curated by Marvin Jones, Art Books Press Gallery, Seattle, USA, March 12 - April 30.  
**Self Portrait Exhibition**, curated by Ed Varney, Nemeth Gallery, Parksville, Canada, May 1 - 30.  
**The Art of Work**, curated by Bill Friesen and Marci Katz, Oceanside Gallery, Parksville, Canada, May 1 - 30.  
**Mother/Madonna/May Queen**, curated by Bronwyn Simons, The Abbey, Cumberland, Canada, May 5 - 30.  
**Flags of Peace**, curated by Smith and Gold, public display, Nobel, Canada, July 30 - August 2; public display, Turka, Finland, August 18 - 20.  
**Cyclops Dreams**, curated by Jo Cook and Owen Plummer, Access Artist Run Centre, Vancouver, Canada, July 23 - August 20. Catalogue.



- Artist Trading Card Exhibition**, curated by Bill Thomson, Blackberry Gallery, Port Moody, Canada, Catalogue.
- Canadian West Coast Surrealism**, curated by Cathy Stoyko, The Abbey, Cumberland, Canada, September 3 - 24.
- Science of Trading Cards**, curated by Don Mabie, The New Gallery, Calgary, Canada, September 9 - October 8.
- Scents: Locks: Kisses**, curated by Guy Bleus, Kunstencentrum, Vleiegel, Belgium, Catalogue.
- Artistamps 3**, Galerie du Caue, Limoges, France, October 6 - November 9.
- Eastside Culture Crawl**, Quattro Pose, Vancouver, Canada, November 19 - 21.
- Raise Hands All Those**, curated by Jo Cook, Galerie 101, Ottawa, Canada, October 13 - November 5. Catalogue.
- 1a Exposição de Arte Postal**, curated by Jose Liberato Almeida, Galeria Quiroza, Artos de Valdevez, Portugal, October 26 - November 6. Catalogue.
- Comox Valley Artists**, curated by Tony Martin, Comox Valley Art Gallery, Courtenay, Canada
- 2004 **Cover to Cover**, curated by Trish Mitchell, Britannia Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada, December 7 - January 5, 2006
- Artist Block Exhibition**, curated by Bill Thomson, Britannia Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada, February 4 -27
- (Self) Publish or Perish: Books, Zines, Comics, Postcards, Phamphlets & Manifestos**, curated by Jo Cook, Open Space, Victoria, Canada, February 6 - March 7. Catalogue.
- Artistamps**, curated by Giancarlo da Lio, Garage N.3 Gallery, Venice, Italy, June 18 - August 26.
- Small by Nature - Miniature Show**, Arrowsmith Gallery, Parksville, Canada, July 1 -30. Catalogue.
- The First 25 Years 1979 - 2004**, curated by Alanna Wood, Sunshine Coast Arts Centre, Sechelt, Canada,
- Order From Chaos**, curated by Ed Varney, Oceanside Gallery, Parksville, Canada, August 5 -30. Catalogue.
- Talking Hands**, curated by Germano Meyer, Rio Claro, Brazil, November 2 - 30.
- 2003 **Eastside Culture Crawl**, Quattro Pose, November 19 - 21.
- {If...then}Artistamp Show**, curated by Marvin Jones, Phinney Center Gallery, Seattle, USA, January 2 - 31.
- Retrospective Cees Franke**, curated by Darlene Altschul, De Raadskelder, Sluis, The Netherlands, February 1 March 2. Catalogue.
- Postmodern Post: International Artistamps**, curated by Harley, Sonoma County Museum, Santa Rosa, California, February 14 - April 27.
- Fantastic Vehicles**, curated by Bruno Pollacci, Academia D'Art di Pisa, Pisa, Italy, April 7 - 11.
- Work and why we do it**, curated by Famous Empty Sky, The Libra Room, Vancouver, Canada
- ARTROPOLIS 2003: The Human Image in the Landscape**, curated by Ed Varney, CBC TV Studios, Vancouver, Canada, May 16 - June 8. Catalogue.
- Artistamp 1**, curated by Remy Penard, Studio Gallery, Limoges, France, June 22 - August 15.
- Stamp!**, curated by Michael Hernandez de Luna, Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, USA, July 5 - 27.
- 1st BC Artist Trading Card Exhibition**, Sunshine Coast Arts Centre, Sechelt, Canada, July 8 - August 10. Catalogue.
- Artist Trading Card Show**, curated by Vanci Stirnemann, Stuttgartarten Kunstverein, Stuttgart, Germany, Catalogue.
- Order From Chaos**, curated by Ed Varney, Sunshine Coast Arts Centre, Sechelt, Canada, Catalogue.
- Eastside Culture Crawl**, Quattro Pose, Vancouver, Canada, November 21 - 23.

- 2002 **Sul Sentiero Della Spiritualita**, curated by Bruno Pallacci, Academia D'Art de Pisa, Pisa Italy, February 4 -28  
**...It's in the Mail**, curated by Susan Williamson, Art Gallery of Peel, Brampton, Canada, June 26 - August 18. Catalogue.  
**Small in Nature**, Arrowsmith Gallery, Parksville, Canada, July 5 - August 6. Catalogue.  
**Creativa 3**, curated by Fanco Focardi, Cellai, Rinano Sull' Arno, Italy, July 6 - 7.  
**Motherland/Fatherland: Moscow International Forum of Art Initiatives**, curated by Natalie Lamanova, Alexander Kholopov and James Felter, Moscow State Exhibition Hall, Moscow, Russia, July 11 - 21. Catalogue.  
**Parallel Realities**, Artpool, Budapest, Hungary, October 25 to November 15.  
**The Miniature Show**, Comox Valley Art Gallery, Courtenay, Canada, November 2 - December 23.  
**The Last Man on the Moon**; 30th Anniversary of the Last Man on the Moon, curated by Ed Varney, Courtenay and District Museum, Courtenay, Canada, December 19. Catalogue.
- 2001 **Caos - Villaggio Globale**, curated by Ruggero Maggi, Milan Art Center, Milan, Italy, February 2 - 12.  
**The Eternal Network...Still?; Mail Art from the State of Being Archive**, curated by Reid Wood, Sandusky Cultural Center, Sandusky, USA, February 25 -April 1.  
**ARTROPOLIS 2001: Self Portrait Exhibition**, curated by Ed Varney, CBC Studios, Vancouver, Canada Catalogue  
**International Artistamp/Mail Art Exhibition**, curated by Lewis Tauber, Art Gallery of Hamilton, Hamilton, Canada, April 10 to May 12. Catalogue.  
**1' x 1'x 1''**, Comox Valley Art Gallery, Courtenay, Canada, September 1 - 29.
- 2000 **Art & Artists of the 20th Century**, curated by Ed Varney, Comox Valley Art Gallery, Courtenay, Canada, Jan. 15 - Feb. 20 (1999); Vancouver East Cultural Centre, Oct. 24 - Dec. 3 (1999); Sunshine Coast Arts Centre, Sechelt, Canada, Jan 5. - 31, 2000; Gallery at Artisan's Square, Bowen Island, Canada, Feb. 8 - Mar. 5. Catalogue.  
**Stamp Art and Artist's Stamps**, curated by B.Robinson, Art Institute of Boston, Boston, USA  
**Strange Days**, Spazio di Arte Totale, Pistoria, Italy, December 11 (1999) - January 16. Catalogue.  
**New Fortune City**, curated by Christopher Small, Van. East Cultural Centre Gallery, Vancouver, Canada,  
**Order From Chaos**, curated by Ed Varney, Sunshine Coast Arts Centre, Sechelt, Canada, January 4 - 30. Catalogue.  
**Black and White**, curated by Dorrie Ratzlaff, Vancouver East Cultural Centre Gallery, Vancouver, Canada  
**Ode to Jack Shadbolt**, curated by Trish Mitchell, Van. East Cultural Centre Gallery, Vancouver, Canada  
**Timbres d'artists du Monde Entier**, curated by Christian Alle, Bureau de Poste, Cherbourg, France, Catalogue  
**Artistamps**, curated by Ever Arts, Galerie Galery, Zierukzee, Holland, May 1 - June 28. Catalogue.  
**Signed, Sealed, Delivered: Postal Heritage in Evolution**, Canadian Postal Museum, Hull, Canada  
**Nog A Dod: A large collection of small Artist's Books**, curated by Jason McLean, Moon Base Gallery, Vancouver  
**New Fortune City**, curated by Chritopher Small, American Institute of Architects Gallery, Seattle, USA, June 1 - 30.  
**small: the art of the miniature 2**, curated by Ed Varney, Van. East Cultural Centre Gallery, Vancouver, Catalogue.  
**Ray Johnson: Correspondances**, curated by Mark Corroto, Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, USA, Catalogue.

**COLLECTIONS:**

Canada Council Art Bank, Ottawa; National Library, Ottawa; National Postal Museum, Ottawa; Smithsonian, Washington D.C.; Getty Museum, Pasadena; Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver; Helen and Morris Belkin Art Gallery, Vancouver; University of Southern California, San Francisco; Artpool, Budapest; Comox Valley Art Gallery, Courtenay; Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha; etc.

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