

**JCAC / ACS
“Turning the Pages”
Wondergrid Gallery**

QUESTION-and-ANSWER INTERVIEW

Collage Artist ELLEN KIERR STEIN

How do you define collage as an art form?

Collage is Hide-and-Seek. It’s an interactive format between artist and viewer that invites discovery.

Collage is One-Size-Fits-All. It’s an adaptable technique for any age, ability, or style.

Collage is Do-Over-Friendly. It’s a forgiving method for adding, subtracting, or revising information.

Collage is Budget-Based. It’s a recycling system that gives purpose, prominence, and permanence to even humble materials.

What do collage artists have in common?

A collection of glues!

Representing a wide range of styles, all collage artists make connections – physical as well as symbolic - between tangible elements. We build our surfaces with a variety of materials to create composition, texture, color, shape, patterns, and content.

What distinguishes collage artists from one another?

Some collages are painterly, some are graphic. Some are organic, some are geometric. Some are representational, some are abstract.

But all collages are based on artists’ intuitive decisions about imagery and technique. Each collage becomes an authentic, recognizable imprint of the person who made it.

Please tell us about the current exhibit, “Turning the Pages.”

The theme of this exhibit was to highlight the impact that newspapers command through their content, imagery, and format.

During the heightened and extraordinary events of 2020, publication and consumption of news were intensified.

Our exhibit goal was, literally, to transform function into aesthetics - to ask our members to incorporate text and graphics into elements of visual art. In the process, artists expressed themselves through their thematic, stylistic, and technical choices.

Artists participating in this exhibit followed these two basic guidelines:

- At least 25% of each collage incorporated commercial publications, either original or photocopied.
- Collages were sized in proportion to the dimensions of a newspaper, based on a scale of 12 X 24 inches.

Newspapers are a resource of information, opinions, photos, design, and commerce. By selecting from these components to create collages, our artists converted a mass-produced medium into unique expressions of creativity.

