Chris Meyer

"What is it? What does it mean?"

These are questions abstract artists hear all the time. They are particularly hard for me to answer, because I am rarely trying to abstract a person, place, or thing; my goal is to present a mood – and often one that cannot be summed up in a few short words. A more appropriate analogy may be the feeling you have just as you wake from a dream, and are trying to recall that unnamed land you just returned from. Not just the who, what, why, where, and how, but the mood of that place and time.

I freely combine primitive art, photography, text, digital and nature printing, unusual papers, abstract acrylic paint, and a variety of organic and industrial materials. The way a piece gets started is that a particular source or experiment speaks to me, and demands to be used.

improviZations 3

However, it is not yet a fully formed idea: The sources are giving me a clue, but are not telling me the whole story. They're leaving it to me to add more elements to make sense of it all…or at least until I am satisfied with the mood that they create. Although I am making conscious decisions based on my personal tastes, just as often I feel like I'm really just the messenger, rather than the writer of these messages.

So what is it? What does it mean? Honestly, I do not know. I am often left pondering my own pieces, soaking up the mood they create, still trying to discern the story the sources demanded I tell. I hope that they speak to you, and that you enjoy conjuring your own stories and dreams from the results.

Chris Meyer

Chris Meyer has long enjoyed a career as a motion graphics artist, creating commercial art for television and film through his and his wife's company CyberMotion. A few years ago, after watching his wife Trish Meyer enjoy painting, he got the itch to "create art without clients telling me what to do."

Chris drew on his backgrounds as digital graphic artist, engineer, and amateur photographer to start creating unique collages and assemblages that blurred the lines between photography, printing, and painting. On a lark, he joined Collage Artists of America and entered a show; the second collage he ever created – *Deconstruction 1.1*, based on a distressed photo of the Natural History Museum in San Diego's Balboa Park – won second prize. Thus encouraged, he has continued to explore and create in his spare time, focusing on a fusion between digital printing and traditional collage techniques.