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ARTIST STATEMENT:

My love of collage started with a scrap box of mementos from my childhood. These small sentimental pieces of my past came from my father, who passed them down to me in a family tradition. Stuffing these tidbits into a box beneath my bed seemed wrong and anticlimactic. I remember standing there, after my father left, looking at the hospital bill from my birth, my Mom's nursing school graduation cards from 1967, and thinking *what should I do with this?*

I decided to find a way to incorporate these memorable papers, notes and snippets of my family's past into something both memorable and beautiful. Thus was born a representational collage "painting." This piece, *Looking in on Jane* (a portrait of my mother), won Best of Show at Orlando Visual Artists League in 2005, and for a second time at the Women's Caucus for Arts' Matriarchs and Madonnas exhibit in 2007. The success of this piece plunged me head-first into the pool of possibility that is collage.

My technique has evolved as a result of experimentation with hand-painted, hand-made, and a wide variety of textured and patterned papers. Layering and weaving, pushing and pulling the colors, patterns, and values makes collage liken to music. I go back and forth, alternating and overlapping until the rhythm creates something I love.

In my work I highlight the extraordinary within the ordinary, focusing on intense and vibrant colors combined with a sensibility of design. My collages invite the viewer to look, and having looked, to linger.