



This month, I would like to present Denis Schäfer, a collagist from Berlin.

As you can see with the pictures presented here, his collages are most of the time related to city or rather city architecture. With pieces of paper or photography of cities, he gives new images of huge cities, of megalopolis.

He likes to play with perspective, the association between images and the way of presenting the results. At the end, the impression is strong and a bit surrealist but also subtle and poetic. Denis is also a photographer and likes to take city architectures, but not only... please do not hesitate to have a look at his web site <http://www.denisschaefer.eu> to see all of his art works which are very impressive.

**\* Please give us a brief sum up of your art background?**

Since my youth, I am interested in art. My brother was a big help in this development. First, I heard his records, then I read his books and at the end, I dealt more with the visual arts than he, who is now an actor in a theater.

I studied Museology and was fascinated by the ancient and modern classics. I'm still impressed by works of old masters such as Caspar David Friedrich, Menzel and Lovis Corinth. I would like also to mention some famous artists of the 20th Century, such as Max Ernst, Kandinsky, Hannah Höch or photographs of Robert Capa, August Sander or Heinrich Zille. Actually, there are too many artists that I like, to list them all.

Contemporary artists that I know personally are especially important for my work. I greatly appreciate their work and ideas. Here I would like to mention Stefanie Marx in Leipzig, Matias Becker in Munich and Miquel Rothschild in Berlin.

**\* Since how long are you doing collages? How did you started to do collages?**

I make collages since 2006. The reason for that was, that I have been collecting for many years, newspapers and magazine clippings of buildings, cityscapes or other things which fascinate me in a special way. In this sense, I am trying to map the individual buildings and other clippings in an overall context. This creates fictional cities, like the MEGAURBANPOLIS-series with a special topic or landscape. First, I have the idea and the topic for a new paper collage and then I look for suitable pictures. It is important to me that the parts fit together as well as possible visually and in perspective, they are put into a relationship. This is sometimes frustrating as it may take a long time until all the parts come together and a collage is finishing. It is perhaps comparable with fishing, you need a lot of patience.

**\* What is your technique? Are your collages only made with glue and paper? Do you use computer tools?**

The collages are made by the traditional way -with scissors, glue and paper-. All parts of the collages are generally available only once. Only sometimes i'm lucky to have an equal part twice. I don't work digitally and don't use photoshop or computer tools.

**\* How do you find the images you use?**

I only use clippings from recent newspapers, magazines, books or from my own photographs. I have good friends who support me and collect newspapers and magazines for me. I collect everything what I like and need or might need someday. I try to limit myself, otherwise someday I will sleep in newspapers.

**\* You are also photographer. Did you start making photos before or after collage? What do you like to take? What are your topics for the photos?**

Both are very important for me and I do both a lot. I photograph since a long time. Before, it was landscapes that I took on my trips, today it is more the motive of urban life in the city and facades of buildings. I also find it exciting to document the changes in berlin and I still do a lot of nature shots of forests, mountains and the sea.

**\* Are your collages and your photos complementary and related? or two completely different ways of expression?**

Both is passion. Sometimes there are parallels. I think that shooting pictures and making collages are regardless of content two different things. It's not the same, but sometimes, I am really amazed about 'real' pictures and landscapes, that looks like a 'fantastic' papercollage!

**\* Is there any meaning or message in your collages?**

I hope there is!

**\* Have you ever thought about using other kind of media with your collages, like painting or drawing?**

Maybe I'll work in the future even more with my own photographs and in this case I would like to print my own backgrounds in screen printing.

**\* Are you a full time artist or do you have an other job for living?**

I'm not an full time artist. I am self-employed in the museum sector but I spend 50/50 of my time in art and business and i'm very happy with this possibility!

**\* Have you any exhibition or event planned this year?**

Yes, my papercollages are shown in a solo exhibition in Berlin-Neukölln from the 16th to the 21st of November 2013. For the people who are interested to come, the exact adress is : SCHILLERPALAIS, Schillerpromenade 4, 12049 Berlin-Neukölln. Of course I am still looking for galleries and spaces. If there is somebody who read this interview is interested do not hesitate to contact me.