

# Collage

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## Front Matter

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# *Collage*

## *A Magazine for Language & the Arts*

*Collage* is an interdisciplinary magazine designed to explore the poetry of language and the visual arts. Submissions may include original poetry, short prose, and bilingual translations. All submissions must be accompanied by an English translation and include the name of both contributor and translator. Images may be in black and white or color and must be submitted digitally. In the online version of the publication, we can also insert links for audio and video pieces.

### **Editor**

Judy Cochran ([cochran@denison.edu](mailto:cochran@denison.edu))

### **Student Editor**

Richard Banahan

### **Publisher**

Department of Modern Languages Denison University Granville Ohio USA

### **Technical Advisor**

Cheryl Johnson, Instructional Technologist ([johnsonc@denison.edu](mailto:johnsonc@denison.edu))

### **Magazine Layout**

Cheryl Johnson

### **Cover Photographs**

Charles O'Keefe (front), Richard Banahan (back)

### **Issue Contributors**

Charles O'Keefe Judy Cochran Roberta Chapman Anitra Chughtai  
Mark Vanderlinde-Abernathy Amy Norskog Sarah Bishop Hafedh Zanina Ryan Butz  
Jennifer Humbert Fadona El Bouamraoui Adele Reeves Brody Pagel Grace Du Gar  
Jimmy Pipkin Molly Roscoe Matt Messmer Timothy Cooper David Harman  
Ann Townsend Sara Cahill Matt Bishop Priscilla Paton Gonzalo Tuesta  
Sarah Pillersdorf Michael Tangeman Danielle Gerken Curtis Plowgian  
Jennifer Zimmer Autumn Lotze Stephen M. Julka Thomas Bressoud  
Eric Nelson Sarah Clapp John Burzynski Megan Fetter  
Richard Banahan Kim Freeman  
Jacob Rodriguez-Nobel  
Suzanne Kennedy

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# *Collage*

## *A Magazine for Language & the Arts*

*No. 2 - Spring 2006*



### *Editorial*

by Judy Cochran

In this second issue of *Collage* we have gathered reflections in text and image on our relationship as individuals to the world around us. With song lyrics and love poems, images of nature and the city, the Java language of mathematics and Japanese cartoons, we have interwoven expressions of individual identity.

We have juxtaposed images of nature's capricious violence and beauty: the butterfly's encounter with the blossom, the mustard flower in bloom beneath moon and sun, a moth caught in the black spider's web, the summer grasses that remain from a Warrior's dreams, an imperfect monkey created by the careless gods of China, the "dark star" shining above one writer's home, the comet that mirrors Jim Morrison's brief explosive life, and the single, stationary satellite seen in "From a Window," "marking its way in the everlasting sky."

In the natural world, we find images of ourselves, like the young lover who loses his heart to the weeping willow, only to find that her branches "fall to the earth like tears" while other trees open to the sky. Through the gaze of one writer, the Eiffel Tower is transformed into the "Great Lady of Paris," a benign, protective mother; through the gaze of another, the sun rises in the final embrace of two lovers. Human love, like nature, remains ever tenuous, always yearning for the permanence of art. Thus, we see the young woman at Rusty's Jazz Café, wondering if her musician companion will

reach out to her as to the song. The group “Begin” sings of love’s longing and ultimate parting. In “Another Woman,” what began as love turns to degradation, for “someone has confused his rage/ with her only life.”

One contributor creates a virtual language, using Java, the “Turtle Art” of mathematics, where he programs the computer to produce a virtual pen, tracing the outline of a face. Another text evokes ironically the proverbial dilemma of gender faced by the student learning French: “Imagine that doors, chairs, and lamps were female, that walls, pencils, and sandwiches were male...” A contributor in Spanish uses playful imagery to show that tennis makes her problems “too tired” to worry her. In Japanese cartoons humor illustrates still another view of the process of creation, while a Chinese text recreates the neon lights of Time Square as they announce the Pope’s death.

From love songs to the Waseda University alma mater, we experience the endless ripples and echoes of childhood, so we chose to end this issue with images of home. Through the “colors of the world” and the “fields of rainbows,” we follow our hearts on roads that lead away from home, then back again, to the comfort of sleep beneath the bedspread quilted by a grandmother’s hands.