

Maultsby, Sara. "Three Generations: Studies in Collage." *San Diego Reader*, 1978.

Collage file

SAN DIEGO READER

THE BIG ORANGE

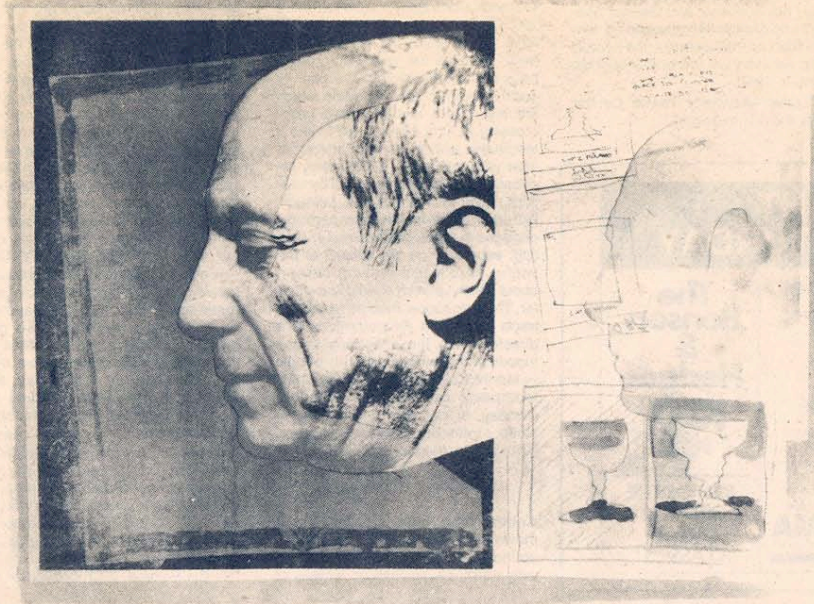
SARA MAULTSBY

Three Generations: Studies in Collage, 104 works by 79 artists, including Christo, Cornell, Diebenkorn, Lichtenstein, Motherwell, Nevelson, Rauschenberg, Schwitters, Warhol. At the Margo Leavin Gallery, 812 N. Robertson Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90069. (213) 273-0603. Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Through March 4.

Collage is a term from the French *coller*, to glue or to paste, and judging from the exhibition at the Margo Leavin Gallery in West Hollywood, every major modern artist keeps the scissors and glue pot at the ready. Although of folk and craft ancestry, collage is central to the development of Cubism, and has attracted such varied artists as Matisse, Claes Oldenburg, and Chris Burden.

This exhibition is impressive both in the sheer number of works collected and in the notoriety of the artists represented. Artists such as Joseph Cornell, Robert Motherwell, and Paul Dillon use assemblage as a primary activity. Others, such as Richard Diebenkorn and Joyce Treiman, try out compositions in the smaller scale using collage before committing the major work to canvas. Social commentary and the artist's sense of humor are also best interpreted using the medium of collage. The many layers of the work can reflect the artist's layers of perception about his subject, as in Red Groom's vision of Marilyn Monroe.

Christo drafts projects using collage as a medium. We see a paste-up representation of his "wrapped bridge," while a map of Rome identifies its precise location. These works are the only concrete and lasting realizations by the artist of work which is designed to be ephemeral and transitory.



SKETCH FOR CUP 2 PICASSO/ CUPS 4 PICASSO - JASPER JOHNS

Anne Ryan's small composition using bits of colored cloth and paper is a study in red, and Robert Motherwell's large (72 x 36 inches) "Royal Fireworks Music" captures with abstract elegance both classical and contemporary subject matters.

Joseph Cornell, one of the most delicate and esoteric of the artists represented, creates nostalgic memories from the pages of books, from matchbook covers and broken bits of the detritus of city life. His "Celestial Navigation" is a superb example of this artist's work, which always has an underlying spiritual quality.

Some work in collage is barely discernible as such. Only close observation can detect the layers of work in Roy Lichtenstein's "Cubist Still Life," but for the most part, collage is more concerned with revelations and new ways of seeing than with concealment of technique.

Works in the exhibition span the years 1928-1977, and provide the interested observer a wonderful overview of the medium since its adoption as a fine arts technique. Some of the works represented seem to derive their value from the name of the artist and his/her body of work outside the piece on view, but the exhibition as

a whole reflects the very personal nature of a technique which allows an artist to stand both inside and outside his or her work.

Current Attractions

The Martian Chronicles by Ray Bradbury moves to a large house and a new production. At the El Rey Theatre, 5517

Wilshire Boulevard between La Brea and Fairfax, Los Angeles 90036. Opens February 14. (213) 931-1513.

Getting Out, a new play by Marsha Norman, tells how a battered young woman just released from prison tries to "get out" to a new life. At the Mark Taper Forum at the Music Center, 135 North Grand, Los Angeles. (213) 972-7211. Previews through February 15. Opens February 16, through April 2.

American Buffalo by David Mamet in West Coast premiere at the Coronet Theatre, 366 North La Cienega Boulevard, Los Angeles 90048. Previews February 4, 5, 6. All seats \$4. Opens February 7. (213) 657-5169/(213) 652-9358.

Lily Tomlin in "Appearing Niteley" at the Huntington Hartford Theatre, 1615 Vine Street, Hollywood, California 90028. January 30-February 25, (213) 462-6666.

Picasso: The Graphic Art, over 350 graphics by Picasso in the Lower Galleries at the Norton Simon Museum at Pasadena, Colorado and Orange Grove Boulevards, Pasadena. Thursday through Sunday, noon to 6 pm.

Textile Traditions of Indonesia, an exhibition of approximately 200 late 19th and early 20th century textiles from Indonesia and Malaysia, at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 5905 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles. Tuesday-Friday 10-5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 10-6 p.m. Through March 26. Admission free.

American Ballet Theatre, in 30 performances January 9-February 4 at the Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion and the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, plus performances at the Terrace Theatre in Long Beach February 6-11. Engagement begins with *The Nutcracker Ballet* danced by Gelsey Kirkland and Mikhail Baryshnikov. Information Los Angeles and Pasadena, (213) 972-7211; Long Beach, (213) 436-3636.

Beatlemania opens January 14 at the Schubert Theatre, Century City, 2020 Avenue of the Stars, Los Angeles 90067. (213) 553-9000.

PHOTO/MARGO LEAVIN GALLERY