

press release

IZHAR PATKIN

COLLAGES

April 4 - May 2, 1981

Tues-Sat, 1-6pm

Opening Reception: Saturday, April 4, 4-6pm

The Kitchen, 484 Broome Street

Tel: 925-3615

From April 4 through May 2, The Kitchen Gallery presents collages by IZHAR PATKIN.

"Collage is an historical 'pedestal' for much of the work we see around. The Russians contoured the photo and used the resulting isolated motifs to play against foreground and background issues. For Schwitters and to a certain extent the Cubists - as they shredded literary material onto pictorial territory - collage was an urbane graphemic gesture. Then there was the tacky, goopy, dreamy supposedly subconscious-related visuality of Surrealism. Rauschenberg collaged by imprinted overlays of imagery veiled with paint and brushstrokes.

The picture elements in my collage are cut to fit like a jigsaw puzzle. The components are aligned in a flat planar dimensionality. This physical/procedural attribute connects the work to the ideology of formal abstract painting, and to the theory of the flat picture plane and its implication that art is looked at visually rather than representationally. Although the work using photos naturally has representational connotations, it is freed from that tyranny by the act of collaging. The actual formal/literal juxtaposition of images create a disturbance, an intellectual jolt, a mental spark off of the formal touch. Collage capitalizes on tension. Collage makes sense of objectivity irrelevant, and turns it into the poetic, into fancy. Content created by this collaging is episodic without story.

Jammed with as much information as possible, but blended so that the information is clean, my collages are like 30-second commercials. The paper is decidedly 'moderne', shiny, pristine, design-y. It has the 'pretense' of plastic gloss, the 'look' of Bauhaus and its pure primary plasticity. Size is not intimate, like most collages, but rather it is 'public' painting size. For all 'practical' purposes the collage is a painting. But for all production and personal purposes and preferences it is collage."

(Izhar Patkin)