

Mark Hendricks

Five Decades 1960-2010

Born in Detroit, I grew up on radical labor and civil rights politics; blues, jazz, soul, folk, rock; great lakes and the Diego Rivera murals that dominates the Detroit Institute of Art. Everything changed after 1968; my underground had come aboveground. I've worked on the epic *Five Decades* series of large-scale collages for over 40 years; each was created at the end of the previous decade, starting from the acidly satirical sixties and continuing through the optimistic worldview of the nineties to the recent aught years. These panels are rarely displayed as a single continuum.

Ripped and torn from the microcosm of my personal experience of a decade and the macrocosm of collective history, the magazines I read during each decade are the major source material. In a continuous editing process, I cross-reference and distill image and text, creating multiple, nonlinear montages in which meaning is continually reinvented. The compositions mirror the way my mind organizes memories at different depths, continuously shifting as one overlaps another, revealing a cacophony of possibilities and perspectives.

From one panel to the next, recurring themes of hope and dismay persist and evolve over time. I juxtapose potent reminders of human failures such as war, pollution and starvation with such optimistic potential as nature, innovation and evolution. The interwoven series forms a riotous statement of how I experienced each era, contrasting the mediated history of the decade with my point of view. The resulting dialog is an iterative narrative that transcends time. Continuing to live and work in Oakland, exploring the detritus of time is my obsession.