

The Núna (Now) Collage Party: A feast for the eyes

The Núna (Now) festival of Icelandic and Canadian art found its purest expression in the Collage Party, a four-day event in which artists gather to make collages, or else to paint, draw, sculpt or what-have-you, without any thought of exhibition or evaluation at the end. This frees the artists up to do whatever they might like.

The Collage Parties were invented by Paul Butler, a Winnipeg-based artist who has held the events all over the world. Butler's vision involves creating a comfortable and inspiring space for artists to work, or not work, as they may prefer. But usually they work, and the sheer amount of art that results from a typical Collage Party means that some of it is going to be good, some less so, but all showing the effects of having been created in this unique artistic hothouse of an environment.

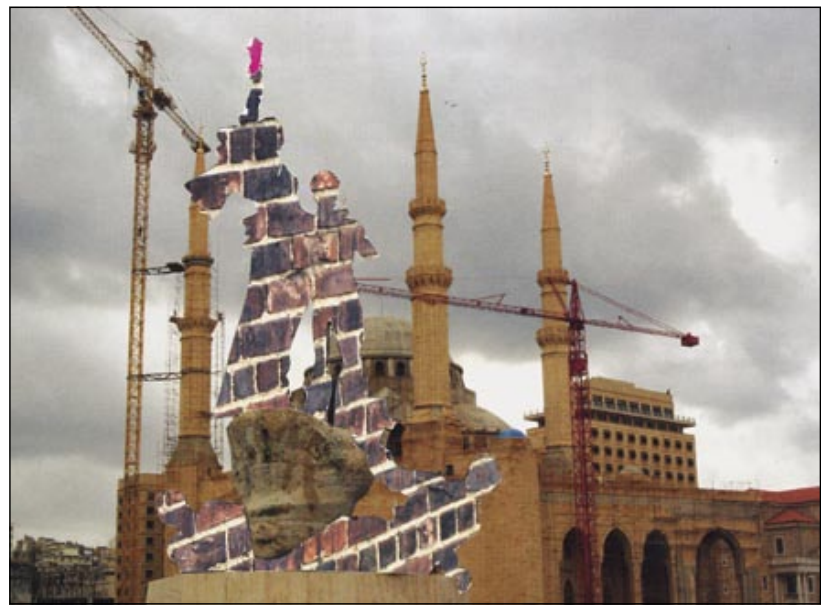
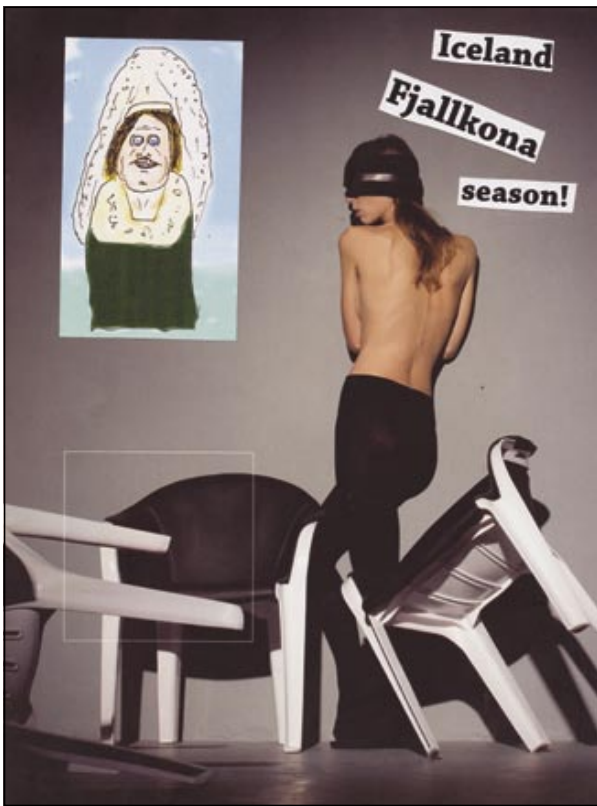
There is usually music playing, and often there are films to watch (Icelandic short films in the case of the Núna CP), and all this helps give the event the aspect of a party - one which lasts for days on end!



PHOTO: LEIF NORMAN

Artist Thor Aikenhead at the Collage Party.

*Iceland, a collage created by Simon Hughes.*



Left: This collage celebrates the magic that is Fjallkona Season, which of course is just around the corner!
Above: A mysterious piece of urban-classical collage.
Below: This piece, created by Catherine McConnell, Advertising Manager at L-H, is titled *Be Yourself*.



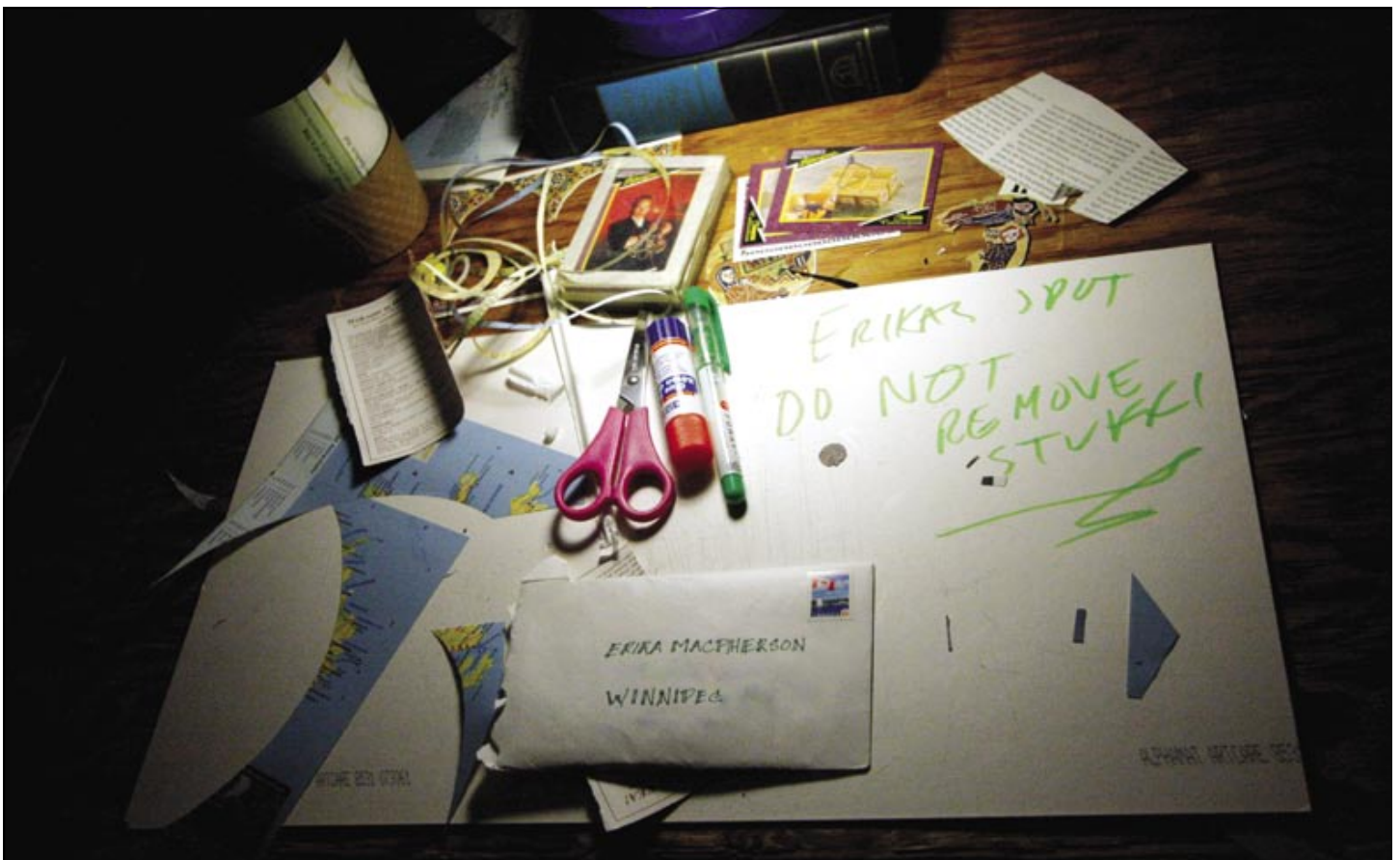


Right: *Paula Cooper Gallery*, created by Simon Hughes. Hughes laboured long and hard on this collage, fearing that the scale and perspective aspects may not come out as intended. But in the end, after much intense fussing, the collage was completed to his satisfaction, and it is now held in the artist's personal collection. Hughes, who is based in Winnipeg, is of Icelandic descent on his matrilineal side.



Above: This piece was created anonymously at the collage party. Note the feminine blonde hair.

Left: A mysterious collage featuring an oversized fish monster attacking a freeway. Is it nature taking her revenge on those who would blithely choke her atmosphere with pollutants by excessive driving?



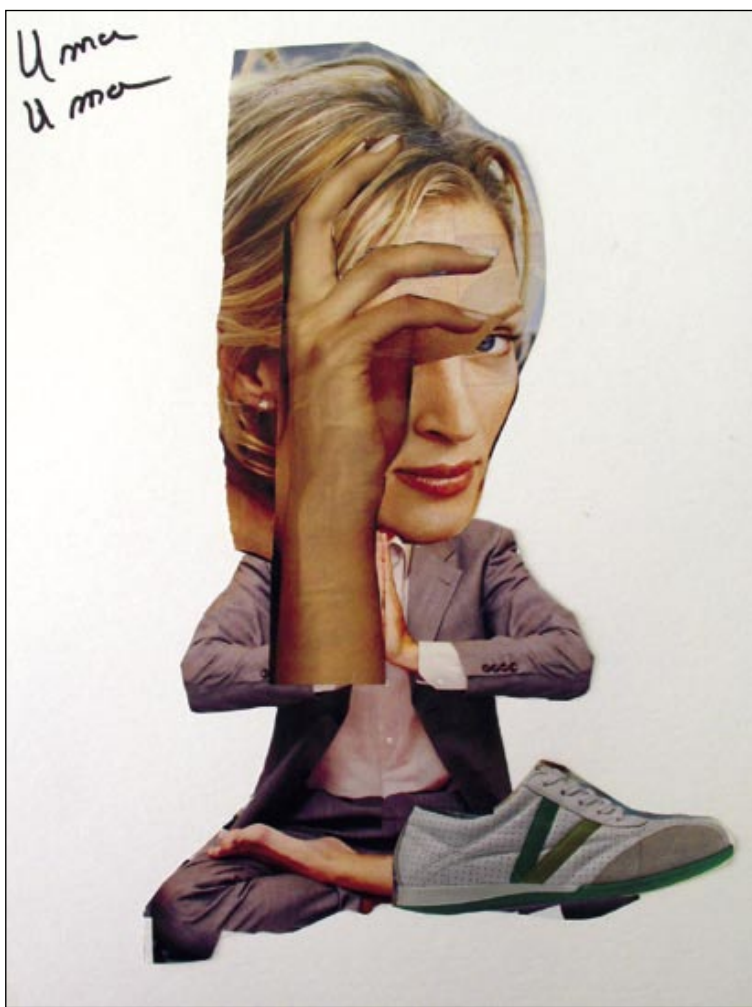
Some artists even reserved their seats for a later time.



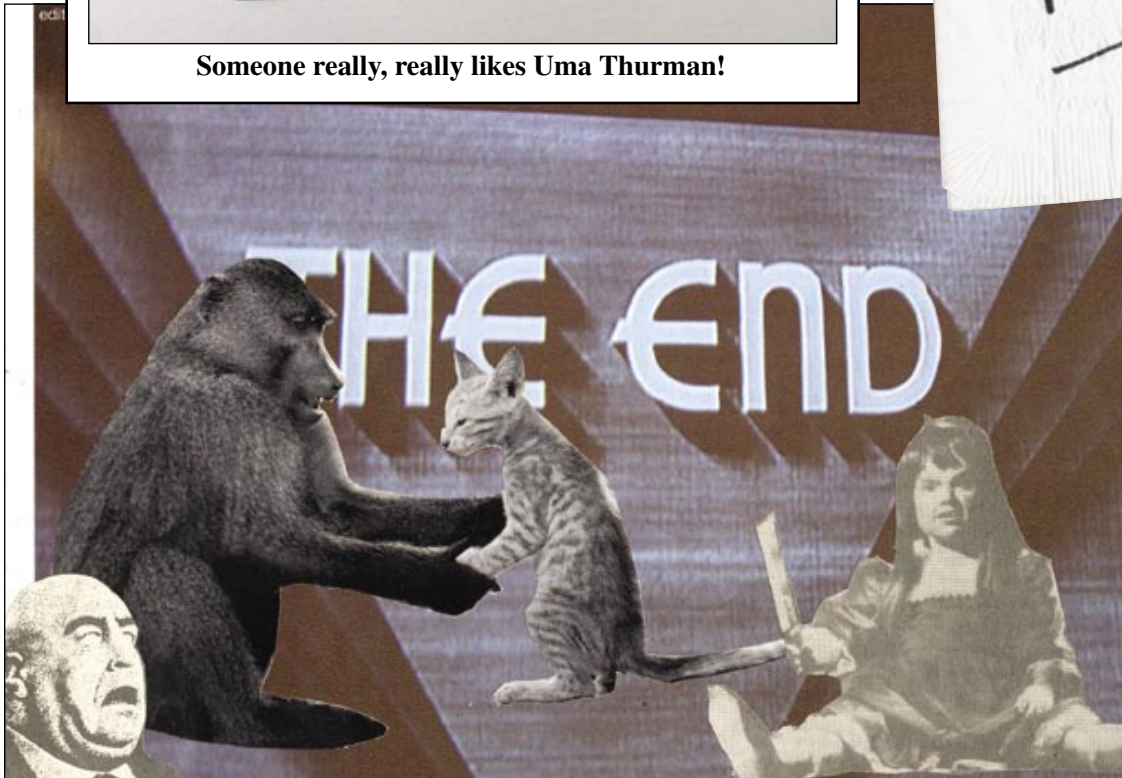
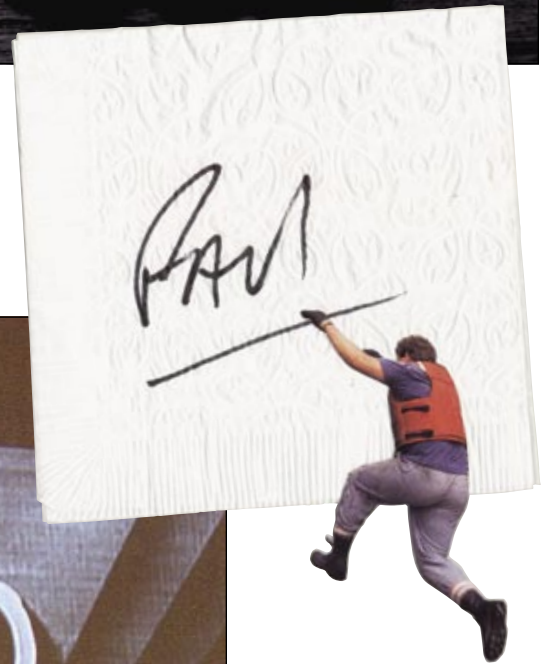
An abstract collage featuring elements of Icelandic design.



How To Make Movies, a collage by L-H editor Caelum Vatnsdal.



Someone really, really likes Uma Thurman!



The collage at left features the Swedish wrestler and movie star Tor Johnson, a monkey dancing with a cat, and a razor-wielding doll from the film *Dolly Dearest*. Put them all together and you have... *The End!*