

# CAROL GOVE AT REGIS

## A CONTINUED DIALOGUE WITH PAINT

For Carol Gove, it's all about the dynamism, the fluidity and the lively play between texture, lines and shapes.

"It's the back and forth between collage and paint, of push and pull, as you're working," explained the Peterborough, N.H.-based collage artist, originally trained as a graphic designer. "It's kind of a continued dialogue, a discussion with the painting as you're creating it."

Her charismatic, thought-provoking work will be on display in "Continuum" from November 9 through January 22 at the Carney Gallery at Regis College in Weston.

The one-woman show will highlight close to two dozen pieces of mixed-media collage on panel, as well as traditional paper collage, spanning the last four years. Gove, whose artist's reception will be held on December 6 from noon to 3 p.m., said she particularly sought to emphasize the evolution of her craft over a period of time.

"It will feature different bodies of work, with the unifying theme of mixed-media collage and abstract expression," she explained. "Viewers will be able to see how the work has changed and grown."

Holding a Bachelor of Science from the University of New Hampshire, she said she decided to pursue art "with more intention" about 15 years ago, and studied at the deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum in Lincoln, Mass. There, she was immediately drawn to the "tactile feeling" of collage and paint, and the ability to manipulate it – the cutting, ripping and tearing of material, as well as the overall process of discovery – tinkering, finding which pieces fit here, which colors blend (or clash, in an aesthetically-appealing way) there.

"I was hooked as soon as it was exposed to me," she recalled, describing herself as "very physical" when she's engrossed in her artwork. "There are so many decisions that go into each painting."

Distinctive in her work are personal items; she will find source material in yellowing handwritten family letters and labels, maps, sheet music and sewing patterns, as well as other family memorabilia, or in random textiles, fabrics and swatches of color that she's drawn to and that inspire her.

For example, "Verdant," a 24" x 36" mixed-media collage on panel, features cutouts from a 1940s Fortune Magazine, including a male form and an upside-down telephone pole. The tight line of a palette knife contrasts with washes in varying degrees of green that drip purposefully down the canvas. Literal hunks of color, including a triangle of deep red, are layered and arched, clashing with more neutral blacks and whites.

"Nudge," meanwhile, incorporates receipts from a family-run hardware store, as well as an architectural blueprint of a house that Gove's father built. The literal memories are intermingled with blotches, circles and swirls of dark and sky blue, white, yellow and a forest green.

"I enjoy giving new life to older materials," said Gove, although she stressed that it's crucial for her to keep her pieces abstract and non-objective; to achieve that, she'll tear away pieces of found materials or cover them with paint, "leaving only a fragment of their original state."

"When you see my paintings, they feel almost built," she said. "There's a lot of layering, ripping away, building."



*Climb*, 2014, mixed media collage on panel, 48" x 36".

Still, it's also important that her work has a resonating quality for viewers. Her hope, she said, is that those remnants and scraps scattered throughout the work will spark a memory, a feeling, a thought.

"They may see a recognizable part of a piece of collage," Gove said, "and be reminded of their own past, their own histories."

| Taryn Plumb

**CAROL GOVE:  
CONTINUUM  
CARNEY GALLERY  
REGIS COLLEGE  
FINE ARTS CENTER  
235 WELLESLEY  
STREET  
WESTON,  
MASSACHUSETTS  
NOVEMBER 9  
THROUGH  
JANUARY 22**