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# DOLAN GEIMAN

## ARTIST STATEMENT

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### Medium: 2D Mixed Media

Originally from the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, today I live on the road, selling my handcrafted 2D mixed media artwork at art fairs across the country with my wife and business partner Ali Marie. Home will always be Virginia, but my studio is currently located in a sustainable warehouse on Chicago's Southside.

My artwork, known as Contemporary Art with a Southern Accent, represents the intersection of my rural, Southern upbringing with my current urban residence. I handcraft each work from the vast array of materials I've been salvaging and collecting since I was a child. My portfolio is vast, styles and mediums quite varied, but most of my 2D mixed media could fall under the categories of collage and/or assemblage. Lately, I've been producing large paper collage portraits of American icons and Animalia entirely from hand-cut vintage paper elements. I like to spend time reminiscing on the past while flipping through the pages of decades forgotten magazines, intently searching for the perfect shape, color, or texture within a periodical's pages to add to my archive of collage elements. I've become increasingly precise and intricate over the years, and my latest large-scale paper collages feature thousands of individually hand-cut pieces.

Likewise, my more dimensional mixed media artwork functions much like a cabinet of Southern curiosities. These tactile wall-sculptures are replete with a dense array of found material, ranging from the industrial to the organic. Assembled together in a variety of final compositions, I often compliment these arrangements with painted or screenprinted scenes referencing the natural world—wildlife, flora, fauna, and avian life. Like my collage work, these works are united by the labor-intensive processes involved in their construction: hand-cutting silhouettes with jig-saw, flattening metal with mallet, cutting strips with industrial shears, smoothing rough elements with metal grinder.

In my own estimation of the artwork I produce, I believe my artistic process originates at the moment I begin rummaging through an abandoned barn, an expansive Southern estate sale, or a gnarly industrial scrapyard. To me, these places are veritable treasure chests of artistic materials and, as an artist, I'm lucky enough to have a job that sets me on cross-country road trips on a regular basis. These locations allow me to discover vast bounties of discarded and historical items inspiring the work that I produce in unique and often unexpected ways. Each piece of art I produce contains material truly special to me for its ability to tell a story and stir wonder for the rugged American landscape.

