



ADVENTURE SEEKER

TAPPING INTO A CHILDHOOD SPENT EXPLORING THE OUTDOORS, ENGLEWOOD ARTIST DOLAN GEIMAN TRANSFORMS FOUND OBJECTS INTO MIXED-MEDIA PIECES THAT INSPIRE A SENSE OF WONDER.

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Right: Artist Dolan Geiman sits beneath two of his nature-inspired creations—a bull made with roofing tin from an old house and barn, and a map dotted with butterflies hand-cut out of metal repurposed from coffee cans and tea tins—in his Englewood studio. **Below:** Geiman attaches an old hotel key to a fox sculpture.



"I've always had this overwhelming urge to make things," says artist Dolan Geiman. Growing up in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, Geiman spent hours roaming the grounds of his family's farm and the woods near their summer cabin looking for potential materials. Like a "miniature scientist," as he says, he would pluck up intriguing items that caught his eye—a broken butterfly wing, an old leather strap from a horse's bridle, colored rocks, pieces of pinecones—and bring them home, where he'd turn them into little sculptures or glue them into a journal and contemplate their past lives. "That is kind of the evolution of how I create now," says Geiman.

Indeed, fast forward years later and Geiman's artistic process hasn't changed all that much. Today, his Englewood studio overflows like a life-size cabinet of curiosities, with discarded ephemera and found objects that are at once the inspiration and the components for his colorful 2-D and 3-D mixed-media creations. Whether he's transforming thousands of bits of paper from vintage magazines into portraits of Native Americans or repurposing old knives and blades into the feathers of a swan sculpture, Geiman hopes his narrative work will spark a deeper





This page: Whether made from found metal (below, shown in-progress) or hand-cut paper (bottom), foxes often appear in Geiman's work.
Opposite: Silk-screen frames line a wall of the artist's studio.



discussion about the icons and traditions of America's past, as well as reignite a sense of adventure and wonder for the great outdoors.

Geiman's own passion for the natural world sprung not just from his outdoorsy upbringing, but also from his time spent as an interpretative naturalist for the USDA Forest Service—a job that left a lasting impression on him. "My work talks a lot about how anthropocentric we are as humans and how we feel like we're the center of the ecosystem—but we're not," he explains. "We're just a part of it, and in my own way I'm looking to give credit back to nature and the animals."

Though Geiman spent 13 years in Chicago building up his oeuvre alongside his wife, Ali Marie, who handles the administrative end of things, the couple recently relocated to the Denver area, where Geiman has reconnected with the rural lifestyle of his past. "How can one live in Colorado and not be filled to overflowing with its riches?" he notes. "I can literally walk out of my door anytime I want, go over to the mountains for a bit and come back completely rejuvenated. Being able to immediately tap into my inspiration like that has had a profound impact on my work." **L**

