

## Off to Collage! The Surreal Artworks of Felix Taylor

MTSU student Felix Taylor is a creative professional who specializes in creating surreal collage artworks by hand using clippings found in thrifted magazines and vintage books.

**Art and Design (AAD)** – Felix, thank you for speaking with us. What can you tell me about yourself?

**Felix** – Well, I was born in Northwest Arkansas, and came to Middle Tennessee State University after earning an associate degree in Art and Science. Currently, I'm pursuing a bachelor's degree in Recording Industry Music Business with a minor in Music.

**AAD** – I understand you also work for the Department of Art and Design?

**Felix** – Yes, I'm a Foundations area student worker for Professor [Erin] Anfinson, so I monitor labs, document student artwork, and assist professors where needed.

**AAD** – That's cool! Let's step back for a second though, and tell me what interests you about the Recording Industry, and how that involves your collage work?

**Felix** – Ok, I've always had a passion for rock 'n' roll music and got interested in pursuing it further after working with local musicians to design album artwork and gig posters. My collages are an offshoot and evolution of that process. With them and my music designs I'm pleased to have been published on Spotify, in MTSU Arts Magazine, and most recently exhibited in Todd Art Gallery's 210 Student Gallery.

**AAD** – You mention your show in 210. You titled it Cut + Paste. What more can you tell us?

**Felix** – Cut + Paste is an analog showcase that features various collections within my collage art portfolio. The works displayed are made without digital intervention, by hand-cutting and pasting clippings from magazines and vintage books to combine into new compositions. By borrowing imagery and implanting it into new contexts, I created surrealist moments in liminal space, where nothing is as it once was, nor will ever be again.

**AAD** – And, Felix, what motivates each of your collage collections?

**Felix** – My work functions primarily as an outlet for gratitude that I often find myself overwhelmed by. When I create an artwork, I am expressing my appreciation for a subject in the most authentic way I know how. These artworks are an offering of thanks to worldly wonders by way of creative ritual.

In looking at them, I encourage viewers to seek gratitude through new, sometimes bizarre perspectives. I'm asking the viewer if you can find something beautiful to be grateful for in each piece? In each day of your life? In each moment? Beauty is around you always - if you cannot see it, cut & paste it in from somewhere else.

**AAD** – Thank you, Felix!

**Felix** – Thank you.

Access our artist's portfolio [here](#), at <https://slugdealerart.myportfolio.com/> for further details and artwork.