



## **A Visual Conversation / Mary Bergs & Diane Bertolo**

Artists Mary Bergs and Diane Bertolo found each other on Instagram and quickly noticed a shared affinity for found materials coupled with a quirky strategy for combining them.

The collaboration began with a simple exchange of paper ephemera with the loose idea of making a notebook-ish hybrid from what was gathered, glued, folded, punctured, pieced together, and then sent via mail.

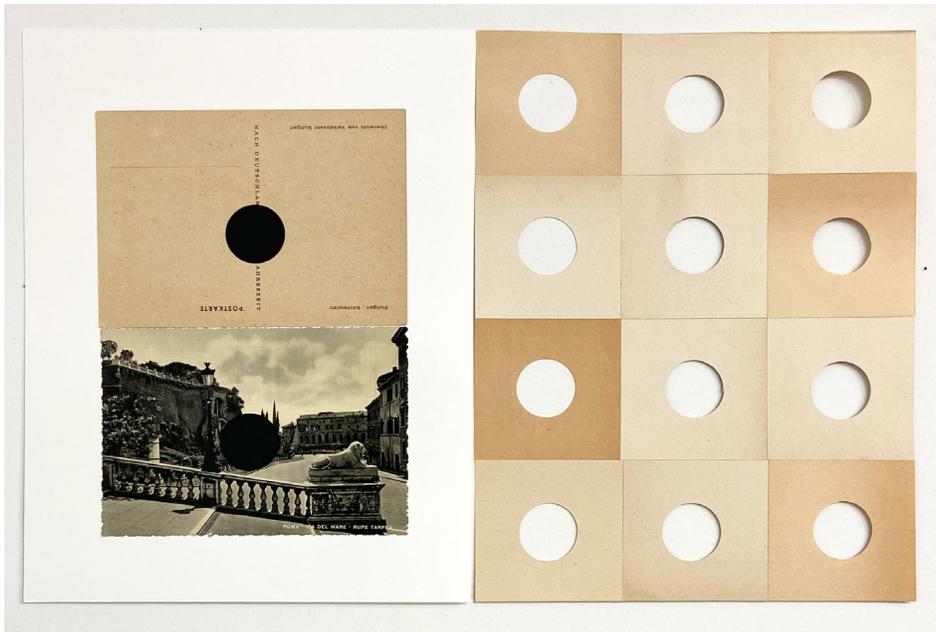
Initially the idea was “you make a left, I’ll make a right” but at some point, they each realized that an intentional and visual conversation was taking place and threw off the constraints of making a notebook and began to make individual pieces based on the other’s recent work.

The images you see gathered here are a combination of both strategies and lay out the beginnings of a visual language intent on telling a secret story.

*The following pages document the works made during this process. All works are collage; the average size is roughly 12in x 18in. Pages 2–5 show eight featured works; pages 6–7 show the complete set.*

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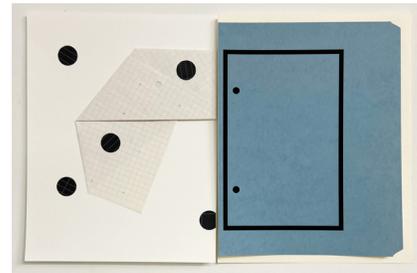
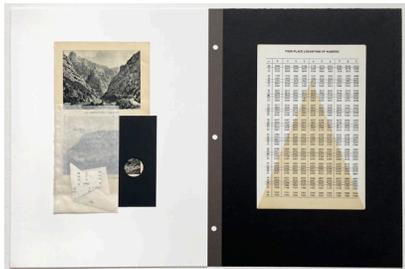
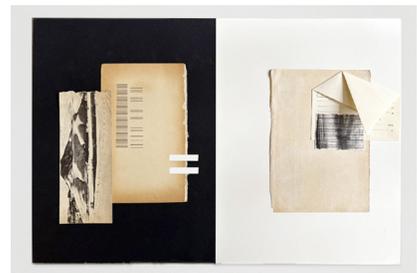
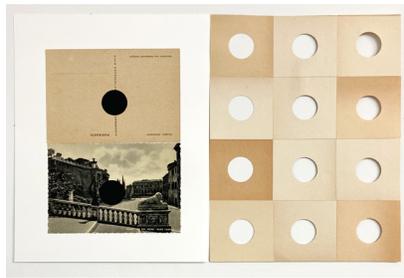
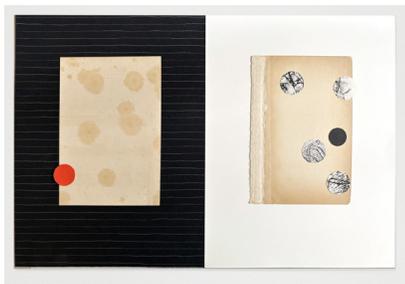
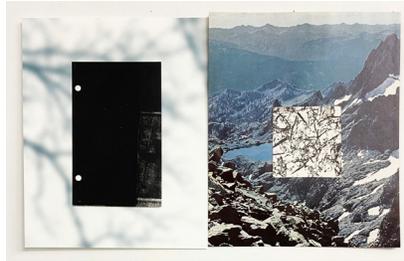




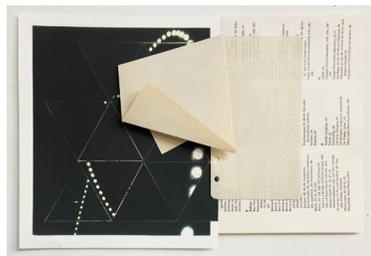
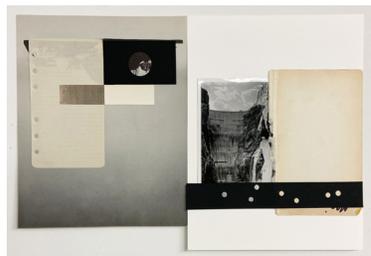
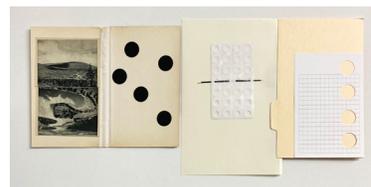
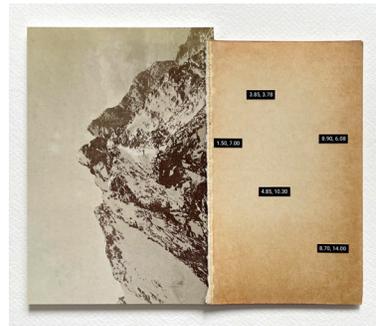
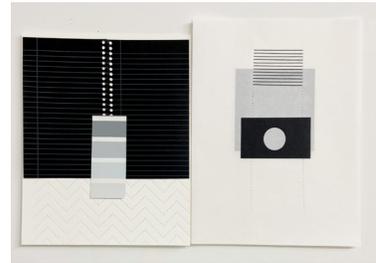
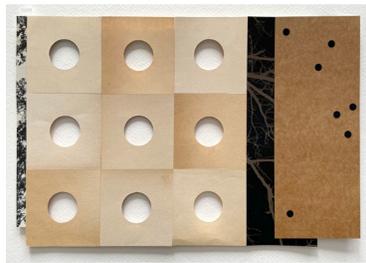
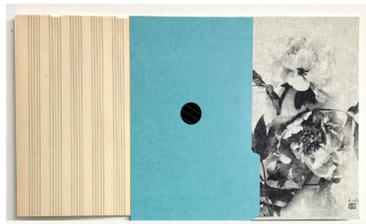


# Complete works

## Left/right collaborative pieces



Visual conversation pieces



**Mary Bergs** orchestrates the viewing of her work through an ordered combination of contrasts. Her formal approach highlights relationships between disparate objects and materials. Bergs' presentation of the unexpected nurtures a sense of awareness, and appreciation of the beauty found in the ordinary.

Bergs has shown her work in solo and group exhibitions throughout the Midwest, including the Minnesota Museum of American Art, Dubuque Museum of Art, Madison WI Central Library and many colleges and Universities. In addition to her studio practice, Bergs is a curator and has been an artist consultant to several health care organizations. She has had artist residencies at Jentel, Vermont Studio Center and Kimmel Harding Nelson Art Center; and Jerome Foundation funded residencies at Lanesboro Art Center and Tofte Lake Center. Bergs has been the recipient of a MN State Arts Board Grants and a Jerome Foundation Travel Study Grant.

[marybergs.com](http://marybergs.com)

**Diane Bertolo** works with pixels and paper to create works that are informed by the concept of impermanence and that use the structure of language as an engine of meaning. The evolving visual language takes pleasure in the spectacle of disintegration and plays with chaos, logic and uncertainty.

Her work has been shown in numerous exhibitions including "Wish You Were Here: The Buffalo Avant Garde of the 70s" at the Buffalo AKG Art Museum, Buffalo, NY; "today.getDate()" at the Burchfield-Penny Art Center, Buffalo, NY; "Some Assembly Required: Collage Culture in Postwar America" at the Everson Museum, Syracuse, NY; "Telematic Connection: The Virtual Embrace" at the San Francisco Art Institute, and "Fragile Algorithm" at BKBX, Brooklyn, NY. Fellowships and awards include The National Endowment for the Arts, The New York Foundation for the Arts (Emerging Forms for Digital Art and again for Computer Art), and The Jerome Foundation and Greenwall Foundation (via Turbulence.org).

[dianebertolo.com](http://dianebertolo.com)