

Tamara Jaeger
Rhapsody and Grace

As a child of two biology major parents, I spent a great deal of time outdoors at parks and nature centers while at home I was surrounded by a huge assortment of pets. Because of this, I have always found nature in general and animals in particular to be restorative and inspirational and this is reflected in most of my pieces.

My working style, which has been a mainstay throughout my career, focuses on combining numerous small fragments into a larger whole. This style currently appears most prominently in my torn paper collage pieces. I create these by gluing tiny fragments of catalogs and magazines to a paper substrate.

This medium appeals to me not only because of the intricate, detailed working process, but also in a conceptual way: useless items—the catalogs, obtain a greater meaning and become something more than they were before. Through this process, the ephemeral becomes permanent; the worthless becomes valuable. In a way, this transformation can be seen as mirroring a person's personal journey through life: each small experience builds on previous experiences, eventually resulting in the depth and richness of a fully-formed individual.