FRESHART

"The Senses"

MARCPAPERSCISSOR

"Space Ninja Yoda"

At first glance, MarcPaperScissor's works may resemble paintings. But the 24-year-old Coral Springs artist uses color cardstock paper, scissors, a black Sharpie and a glue stick to create his vivid collages.

"A lot of people dismiss them and think they're paintings and don't appreciate that it's paper," he explains. "Once they see that it's paper they don't understand that I don't use an X-ACTO knife. I just use a regular scissors."

MarcPaperScissor began making collages in high school. He studied art at Florida Atlantic University but switched his major to communications. "I got C's in my art class because I didn't show up," he says. "I was home cutting paper."

Thirty examples of the artist's work are on display at Stage 84 in Davie. All are paper collages except "Florida Animal Party," a framed ink-and-colored-pencil work on brown paper that depicts a flamingo, a manatee and three other animals, all wearing suits.

The exhibition also includes a collection of works featuring Yoda. In "Space Ninja Yoda," the *Star Wars* Jedi appears to be praying to the moon. Another collage depicts Yoda dressed like Confucius, along with the quote, "Fear is the path to the dark side. Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to suffering." Following the quote is this translation: "All negative emotions are a result of fear … "

"I was on a Yoda trip," MarcPaperScissor says of these works, which correlate Yoda with ancient Chinese philosophy.

The artist's themes extend beyond Jedi Masters and animals to include politics, science, technology, music, sex and culture. In addition to paper collages, he creates digital art, paintings and music. He's also dabbling in animation with a music video for "Last Train" by the Deerfield Beach reggae-rock band the Resolvers. "I'm making the artwork and a couple friends from Digital Media Arts College are helping with the animation," he says. "But I'm going to sit in and learn so I can do that because it's very much like *South Park*, which originally started with the paper cutouts."

Collages remain MarcPaperScissor's primary focus. "I've been making art for five or six years now and I've never had a studio," he says. "Part of the utility of using paper is that it's easy to clean up. I don't have to worry about paint getting anywhere. I don't have to worry about oil paints drying up and I can work in a very small area of my room."

While working, he sits yogi style and listens to music, which is another one of his passions. At FAU, MarcPaperScissor, who performs acoustic songs and improvisational jams, hosted *The Scissor*, a radio program that featured live performances and interviews with local musicians.

"The pitch line was that I cut up all the best music from the past, present and future and paste it all together for your mind, your body and your soul," he says.

The artist compares his work process to the improvisational feel of a Phish show: "It's not planned. It just comes from being comfortable with knowing your craft and doing it so many times that you don't have to worry about [hitting] the right note or the right piece or the right color. You just have to worry about expressing what you are feeling at that moment."

The closing reception for MarcPaperScissor's collage show will take place 8 tonight (Wednesday) at Stage 84, 9118 W. State Road 84, in Davie. The artist will perform an acoustic set from 8 to 10 p.m. His work also will be on display June 10 through 13 at Harold Golen Gallery's art show during Hukilau at Bahia Mar in Fort Lauderdale. Call 954-474-5040 or visit Stage84fl.com.

— **Colleen Dougher**

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"The Factory"