Northern sky: An exhibition of collage-paintings
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An Exhibition of collage-paintings by Stoney Conley
O’Neill level Three Gallery, Boston College

I live under a northern sky. The light, its color, intensity, sensation, season, and length of day influence my psyche, mood, interior life and art practice. The long hours of daylight during summer and short hours during winter define our seasons, influence our lives, and distance us from our southern neighbors. Over the last couple of years I have made something between painting and collage. Collage tends to flatten any picture. It reminds the viewer of the surface, it contradicts illusion. My collages are combinations of painted skies conjoined with tree forms; a distant horizon where the treetops barely differentiate, or a copse grouped together, a wolf tree alone in the field, or a towering giant that dwarfs the viewer. The tree forms a foreground for the color and light of the sky. Some trees have become very familiar through repeated observation and depiction. Others are remembered from walks, often revisited and drawn later. “Painting with scissors” was what Matisse called his collage cut-outs. I cut out forms with a razor knife, a blunt tool compared to a brush. It forces one to simplify, to see the whole and not get lost in details.
1. Valley of Silence: Bell Tower, 2010, oil, acrylic, and collage on paper, 26” x 22”, 30” x 24” inches framed
2. *End of the Day 1*, 2011, oil, acrylic, and collage on paper, 16” x 22” 18” x 24” framed
3. *End of the Day 2*, 2011, oil, acrylic, and collage on paper, 16” x 22”, 18” x 24” framed
4. *Blue Sky and Tree 1*, 2012, ink, acrylic, and collage on paper, 22” x 26”, 24” x 30” framed
5. *September Sky 1*, 2013, ink, acrylic, and collage on paper, 22” x 28”, 24” x 30” framed
7. *End of the Day: Blue*, 2012, oil, acrylic, and collage on paper, 19.5" x 22", 20" x 24" framed
8. *End of the Day: Yellow Orange*, 2012, oil acrylic, and collage on paper, 18” x 22”, 20” x 24” framed
10. *End of the Day: Green*, 2012, oil, acrylic, and collage on paper, 18” x 22”, 20” x 24” framed
11. *Northern Sky: Blue*, 2012, oil, acrylic, and collage on unstretched canvas, 28" x 35"
12. *Northern Sky: Summer Afternoon*, 2014, oil, acrylic, and collage on unstretched canvas, 35 “x 47”
13. *Northern Sky: Pink & Tree*, 2013, oil, acrylic, and collage on unstretched canvas, 30” x 36”
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