

The Canary Hotel's Coast Restaurant and Bar:

## Azar Bizarre: Collage for the Eccentric

By **Kerry Methner** / CASA

**M**AKING WAY for the next generation often means more than finding them a space in the corner to paint or to hang their newest work. Sometimes it means adjusting one's entire sensibility about aesthetics, beauty, and value, or being flexible enough to chuckle as part of Art Appreciation 101.

Up and comer Jack Azar is such an artist. His latest work will be on display at the Canary Hotel's Coast Restaurant starting with an opening reception

on 1st Thursday, September 1st, from 5 to 8pm. Azar will talk about his work starting at 6:15pm.

The exhibit, which runs through September, will be comprised of about 13 of Azar's recent collage works selected with no particular theme in mind. He took time out to answer some questions about the exhibit this week for CASA.

**CASA:** Your work is fun, edgy, and dynamic... do you think that has anything to do with the range that is available in your medium?

**Jack:** Having quite a range makes what I do more exciting. However, no



Jack Azar

matter what medium I work in, a part of me – my humor, curiosity, eccentricity, etc. – will always come out in whatever I create. My collage artwork (what I refer to as Azar Bizarre) accurately interprets the eccentric world I live in, giving you a taste of a one-of-a-kind, "inner Jack" experience.

**CASA:** Does your medium impact your message or, visa versa, does your message require your medium?

**Jack:** My artwork is created as subjectively as my audience views them. A part of me appreciates the fact that I discovered my medium because it challenges my senses in creating artwork I can thoroughly relate to.

**CASA:** What is your process, how do you actually sit down or stand up and begin a project?

**Jack:** Well, I definitely do sit down when I'm working on a piece. I first would like to say that I don't use drugs. All my work is a reflection of my sober mind (believe it or not). There isn't a beginning to my creative process: it's an infinite dimension that I step in and out of at my leisure. While I flip through magazines, there are a few images that resonate strongly with me, which I cut out and use immediately. Otherwise, it loses its magic. In this case, I'm usually working on two to four pieces at a time. Each image speaks a complex language I've learned to understand, and if they're not given the attention they received when first discovered, it's hard to get them to talk again. If the piece doesn't speak for me, the public will never know it existed.

**CASA:** How has your work evolved over the last few years?

**Jack:** All the exhibiting pieces have been created in the last year. The evolution of my artwork can be identified with the intricacy of how the images have been placed, playing with composition and depth of field. I've also become more gung ho about taking risks with my art, cutting out images and placing them with others I would have otherwise assumed wouldn't work.

**CASA:** How would you describe the heart of your work?

**Jack:** Giving images a second chance – a new life – that didn't know anything before than to have been a page bound between other pages of publications.



Pretty Boy by Jack Azar

**CASA:** Are there other artists in your family? Did you have any mentors along the way?

**Jack:** Some of my relatives on my dad's side were professional artists, including my great-uncle Sam Maloof, a world-renowned woodworker. I have a cousin in Lebanon who's a painter and teaches art at a university. Above all, I would say my mom has had the most influence on me as an artist. I grew up around her making incredible needlepoint patterns, all by counting. My eye, attention to detail and sharp memory are innate features I can thank my mom for... Thank You Mom!!

**CASA:** Does your formal education impact your work? Do you have a formal educational background in art?

**Jack:** My formal education is in apparel manufacturing and design, however I don't see it as a primary impact on my artwork. I discovered my medium prior to my education and would say that accumulative life experiences, even to this day, are important contributive factors towards the advancement of my work.

**CASA:** What is most fun about your creative work?

**Jack:** The unpredictability of how an art piece will turn out. I get so excited when my art cooperates with my vision, or surprises me with a result I least expected. Sometimes I catch myself smirking or laugh out loud when this happens.

Coast Restaurant is located at 31 W Carrillo St and is open daily 7am-11pm and Fri 'til midnight. For info call 884-0300 or visit: [www.JackAzar.com](http://www.JackAzar.com)



Rumpspringa by Jack Azar

