Marge Moody
Collages
(A printed brochure of the artist's work)

"By its very nature collage is an open text that, when successful, establishes an empathetic link between the artist, the image and the viewer. The subtle nature of this communication, as does conversation, is renewed with each encounter and makes significant demands on both parties. The artist must rely on a sure sense of composition to shape many different elements into a unified work, while the viewer is challenged to look beyond the convention of semblance and respond to a poetic language that often relies on ambiguity and abstraction. Outliving its modernist heritage, the collage sensibility is now the very foundation for our understanding of the world: as we read a magazine, shop, use the computer, or drive down the strip, we enter the realm of collage.

Within this context, the collage pieces of Scottish-born artist marge moody address a different realm than that of our cacophonous lives. Cutting and pasting, mark-making and layering are all techniques which, in her hands, bring order rather than celebrate randomness. Relying on subtle relationships and the carefully considered play of tension her work abjures absolutes and contrasts sharply with the media-conscious narratives of much contemporary art. For the knowing viewer, references abound. Partly conscious but mostly not, Moody's use of the language of the twentieth century abstract art relies on intuitive borrowing rather than outright appropriation or ironic quotation. *For viewers unfamiliar with this tradition, these works invite and individual response and succeed in communicating the satisfaction of aesthetic engagement and delight. Above all, the works by Marge Moody invite all of us to rediscover the almost forgotten experience of genuinely looking at art."*

Author David Houston, Head Curator of the Ogden Museum, New Orleans, Louisiana, former Director of Rudolph E. Lee Gallery, Clemson University, South Carolina, former head of Visual Art at the SC Arts Commission , Columbia, SC