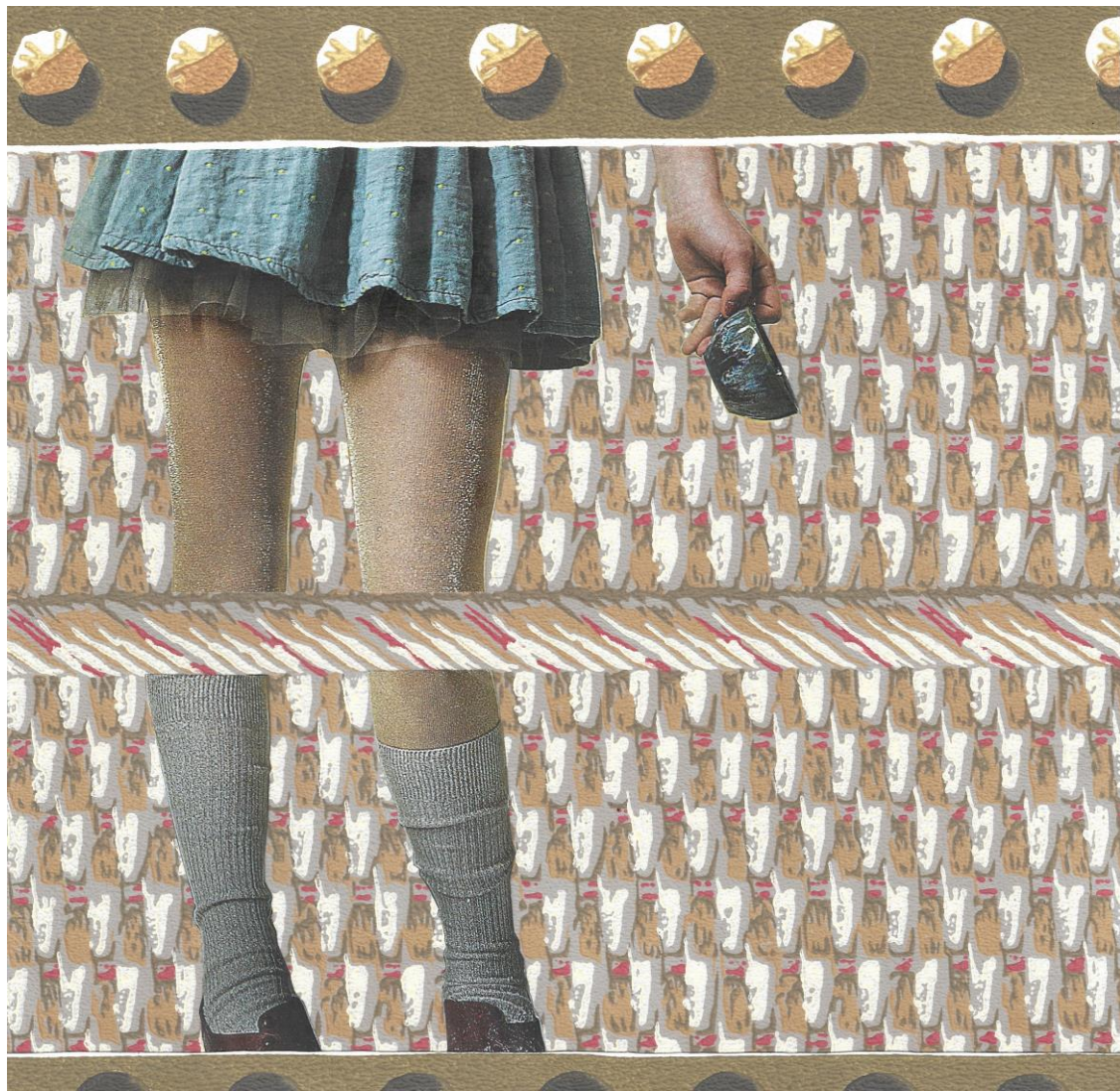


Gabriela Siegenthaler

Collages poétiques - Portfolio



« Alice's Adventures in Wonderland », no 1, « Tea Time », 2024,
collage with wallpapers of Sibra Castle, 25 x 25 cm
(private collection)

**« And what is the use of a book without pictures or conversations? »
(« Alice's Adventures in Wonderland », Lewis Carroll)**

I feel the same way about my collages. What's the point of a collage if it doesn't tell a story?

Through my collages, I tell stories. They are poetic explorations of the present and the past, and I never grow weary of transforming and reinterpreting landscapes and existing images. I love the fact that I can create striking, thought-provoking or humorous statements with just a few simple steps that have a distinctive impact on viewers of my work.



«Lost? », 2022, Collage, 17,4 x 20 cm

After acquiring artistic experience in drawing, painting and modelling, I turned my attention to the art of collage.

I find inspiration in many things, to quote Iris Apfel: « *Inspiration is everywhere, you just have to look for it* ». I find inspiration in images from magazines, lines from novels and words from movies. I also take in my surroundings and reflect them in my collages. They tell stories and explore themes that move me.

I make all my collages using conventional methods and intend to continue working solely with scissors and glue. The images are more valuable to me when I can't undo «mistakes» with «CTRL+Z». Sometimes I paint over my collages with acrylic paint, oil pastels or colored pencils, but I never digitally edit them using image-editing software.

My collages reinterpret and transform existing material to something that stands alone. Through the juxtaposition of seemingly contrasting motifs, visual languages and themes, my collages have a unique character and provoke new reactions in the viewer.



« Lost? », 2022, collage, 24 x 27 cm



« Lost? », 2022, collage, 20,5 x 21 cm



« Day Dreams », 2022, collage, 32,5 x 30,5 cm

The pictures find me, not the other way round – or, to quote the Californian collage artist Eugenia Lolli: « *Collage drives itself, you can't really drive it. It's not like illustration where one can draw anything. If a particular image doesn't exist, the collage doesn't exist.* »



« Summit Talks », 2023, collage, 17,5 x 17,5 cm

A collage does not necessarily require numerous elements. What's important is that all the cut-out pieces come together to form a whole. In this collage, for example, I've arranged the various mountain slopes so that they form a continuous mountain range.



« The Chess Player », 2020, collage, 40 x 40 cm

Time is a recurring theme in my collages: the past, the flow of time, being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

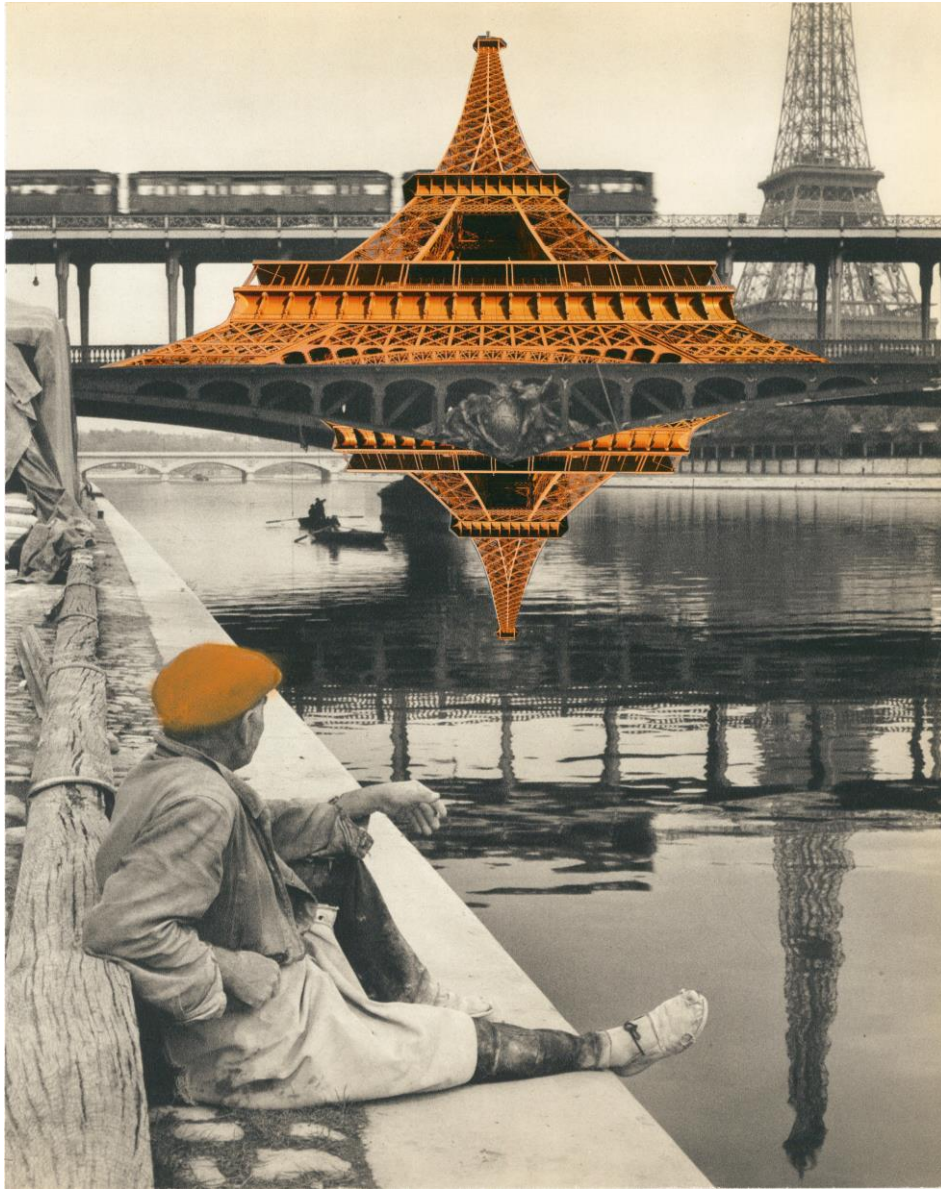
I created this collage during the pandemic. The four travellers on the left are not observing the recommended « Covid safety distance ». Meanwhile, Napoleon on the right could doubtless tell a lot about his experiences of « social distancing » during his exile (on Elba and Saint Helena).



« The day lies ahead of me, and the night lies behind me », 2023
collage, 16 x 16,5 cm

I also combine images from art history in my collages.

In this collage, I have combined Caspar David Friedrich's painting
« Der Wanderer über dem Nebelmeer » with a woman from a fashion magazine.



« Paris redisCOVERed – New Perspectives », 2025
collage, 27,5 x 21,5 cm

« Paris redisCOVERed »

The old photographic book « Paris des rêves », found at a flea market and featuring pictures by Izis Bidermanas, inspired me to create a series of collages entitled « Paris redisCOVERed ».

« Paris redisCOVERed », because for this series of collages I created reinterpretations (cover versions) of each of Izis Bidermanas's 75 black-and-white photographs.



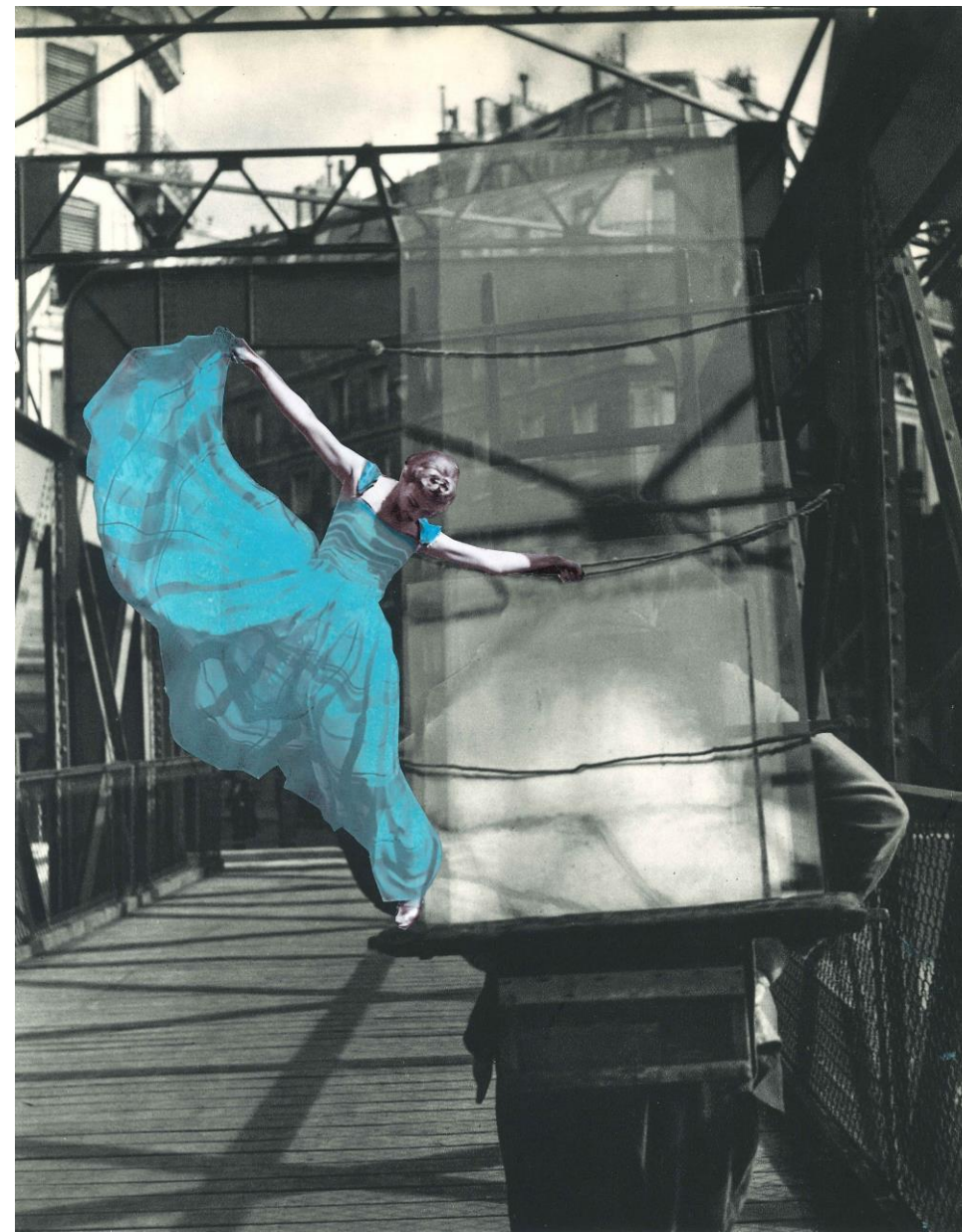
« Paris redisCOVERed – The Walk », 2026
collage, 27,9 x 21,7 cm



« Paris redisCOVERed– Last Summer », 2026
collage, 27,9 x 21,7 cm



« Paris redisCOVERed – A Tree in the City », 2026
collage, 27,8 x 21,5 cm



« Paris redisCOVERed – Fly Away », 2025
collage, 25,5 x 21,5 cm



« Women no 2/6 – Brigitte Bardot with a Dog & The Lady with an Ermine», 2024
collage with wallpapers of Sibra Castle, 25 x 25 cm

Collages using wallpapers of Sibra Castle

In early summer 2024, I had the opportunity to spend a month at the artists' residence at Sibra Castle (France).

When the castle was renovated, the wallpapers were also reprinted.

I applied for this residency with a project to create collages using these beautiful wallpapers. Using remnants of five different wallpapers, I created a total of 16 works.

In addition to these wallpaper collages, I also made a «Cahier d'Artiste» – a diary documenting my time at Sibra Castle.



« Women no 1/6 – The Huntress, the Dog and Marylin », 2024
collage with wallpapers of Sibra Castle, 25 x 25 cm



« Women no 5/6 – Janis Joplin and Madonna », 2024
collage with wallpapers of Sibra Castle, 25 x 25 cm



In February 2023, I took part in the annual @februllage Instagram Collage Challenge. Every day, a different keyword is provided, and participants create a collage based on it.

« Diving for Cactuses », 2023, collage, 22,6 x 19,7 cm
@februllage2023 / « Cactus »

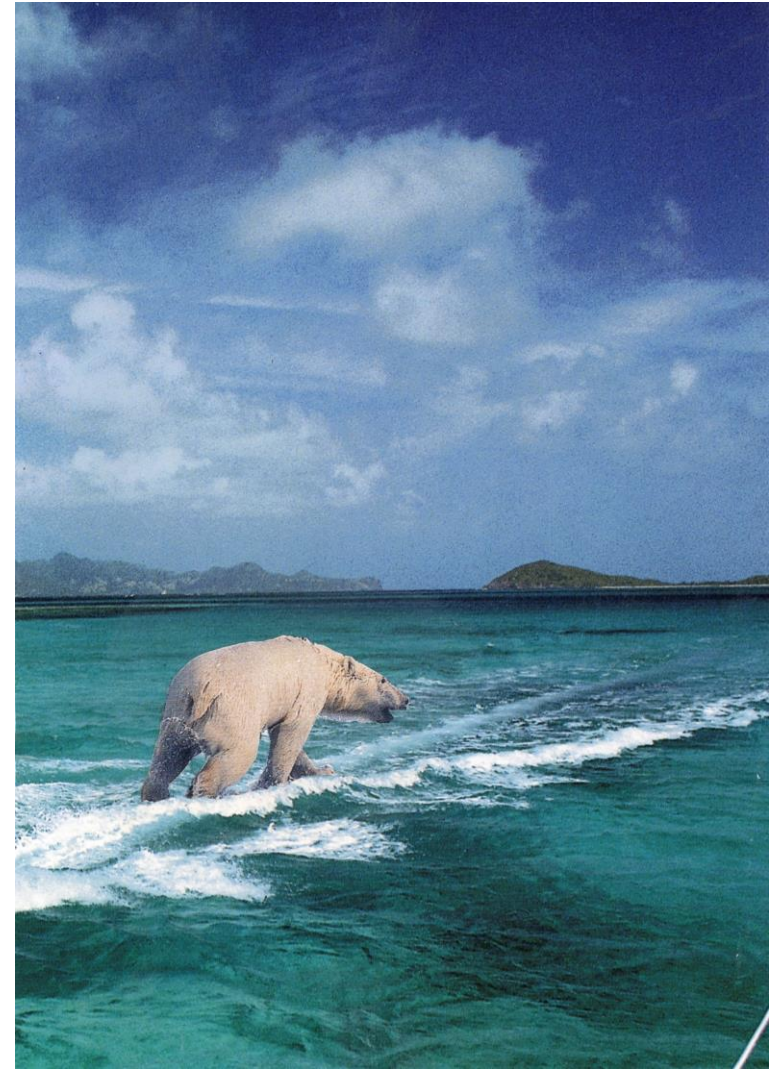
« 100 days challenge » #islands

From October 2019 to January 2020, I set myself a « 100-day challenge » and created a collage in A5 format every day, using only images from a stack of old magazines on the theme of islands.

The result is a series of 100 collages in total.



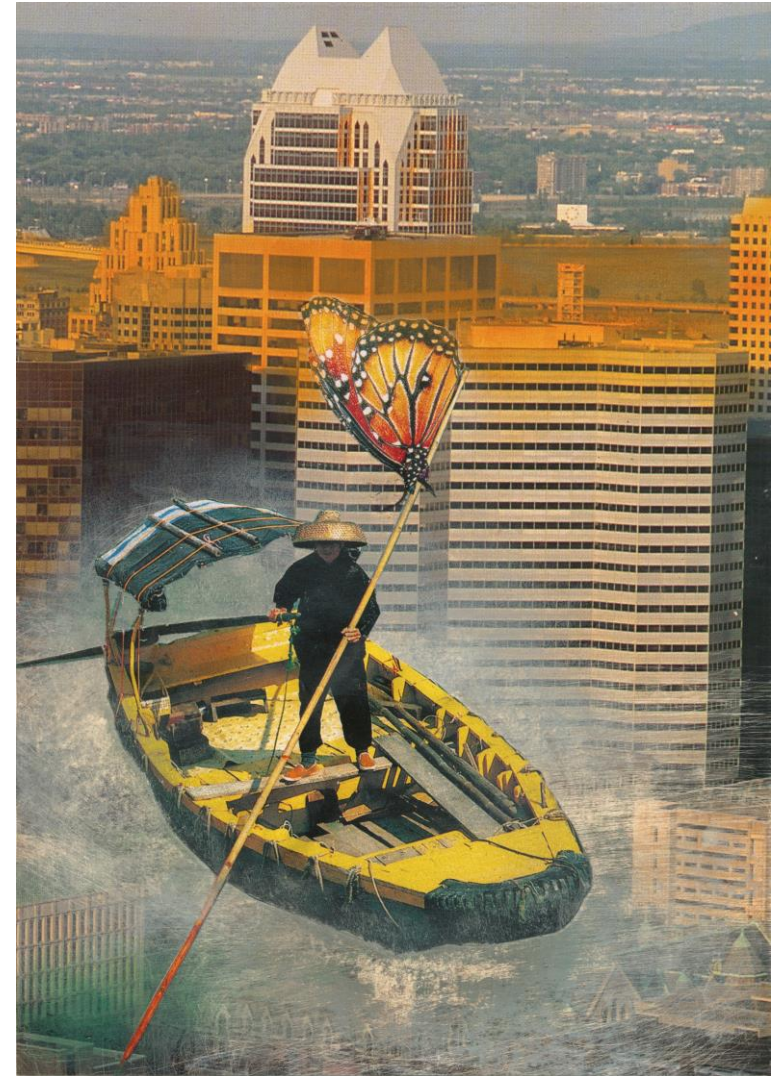
100dayschallenge #islands, no 16/100
« One big Family », 2019, collage, 14,8 x 21 cm



100dayschallenge #islands, no 68/100
« Please bring me some ice! », 2019, collage, 21 x 14,8 cm



100dayschallenge #islands, no 47/100
 « Out in the blue », 2019, collage, 21 x 14,8 cm



100dayschallenge #islands, no 28/100
 « Let's start the new week gently », 2019, collage, 21 x 14,8 cm



Staying on the Path», 2020, collage, 40 x 30 cm
(private collection)

To me, life is like a collage, with various events, coincidences and circumstances coming together to shape our lives.

Many artists use collage as a medium, and some in particular have inspired me: Marie-Françoise Robert inspires me to work with precision and to persistently search for the right elements. Guillermo Kuitca's «Diarios, which were created intuitively over several weeks from various elements and annotated on round canvases, revealed the great depth of his work to me. Lee Krasner created her collages from torn-up paintings of her own. She combined colors that, at first glance, do not appear to harmonize. I am impressed by her fascinating, playful compositions.

However, the extensive work of all these artists has also shown me something fundamental: as an artist, one must remain committed to one's path.

BIOGRAPHY | ARTISTIC CAREER

Born in 1964

Lives and works in Safnern (BE)

Since 1995 various courses and further training in collage

Since 2013 own studio

2024 one-month residency at the artists' residence
 at Sibra Castle (France)

CONTACT

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