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Notes from editor (not for publication):

This was likely a very difficult story with the nature of the artist’s quotes, which are filled with both abstractions and filler words. Check out how I both edited the quotes — filler words are fair game — and selected partial quotes when the whole sentence didn’t make a lot of sense on the page.

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 The arrangement of things Vermont

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

2 Marlboro artist Cathy Osman shows work at Crowell
3 Gallery this month

####END SUBHED####

4 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

5 “Arrangements,” a variety of collages and oil paintings by
6 Cathy Osman, is on display at the Crowell Art Gallery at Moore
7 Free Library through Feb. 28.

8 The Marlboro artist has been doing this work for the last
9 10 years, “going back and forth between easel painting and these
10 collages,” she says. The show features both genres.

11 Whether she’s working on a collage or a painting, “it’s
12 arranging elements, right? It’s a shape, it’s a mark, it’s a color,” the
13 artist says.

14 The exhibit includes larger-scale collages, mostly floral
15 based.

16 “Since the pandemic, when we were all shut down and
17 anxious, I returned to the image of the flower, probably for some
18 kind of sustenance and seeking out some beauty,” Osman says.

19 Osman is also a part of a group show at the AVA Gallery
20 in Lebanon, New Hampshire through February, displaying two of
21 her paintings.

22 **The ‘arrangements’ in life**

23 Osman’s whole career has been landscape based.

24 “I grew up in the Pacific Northwest,” she says. “I moved
25 to New York City, yet I just longed for this sort of grand
26 landscape, so I just sort of recreated it right from abstractions for
27 many years.”

28 The landscape in Marlboro also provides important
29 inspiration for Osman.

30 “Whether it’s fallen trees, it’s the chaos of the woods, or
31 it’s the complexity of a flower next to leaves, next to some kind of
32 plant matter. I like that that arrangement of things Vermont is so
33 special,” Osman says.

34 She explains she is a process artist. Her collages require
35 the labor of reconstructing, constructing, and rearranging and
36 then creating an arrangement.

37 “It’s a discipline more than it is an inspiration,” she says.

38 Osman doesn’t think that her work is “hard to digest,”
39 but says it’s “complicated to look at.”

40 “And I just asked people to slow down, you know, and
41 just look carefully,” she says.

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Future arrangements

Osman has advice for people looking to begin creating art.

She encourages anybody interested in starting should take a class to “be around other people who can encourage and make it into a pleasurable activity.”

“I think so many of us say, ‘I can’t draw,’ right? ‘I can’t do that. I’m not creative,’” she says. Her advice: “Just dive in, let’s trust ourselves. Let’s not have high expectations.

“That word ‘creative’ is a big hurdle to that which we do when we’re making something,” Osman says.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

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To learn more about Osman and her work, visit her website at cathyosman.com, as well as her Instagram page at @cathyosman. The Crowell Art Gallery is located within the Moore Free Library at 23 West St. in Newfane. Hours are Tuesday and Wednesday from 1 to 5 p.m., Thursday from 1 to 6 p.m., Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

####END BIO/COATTAIL####

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