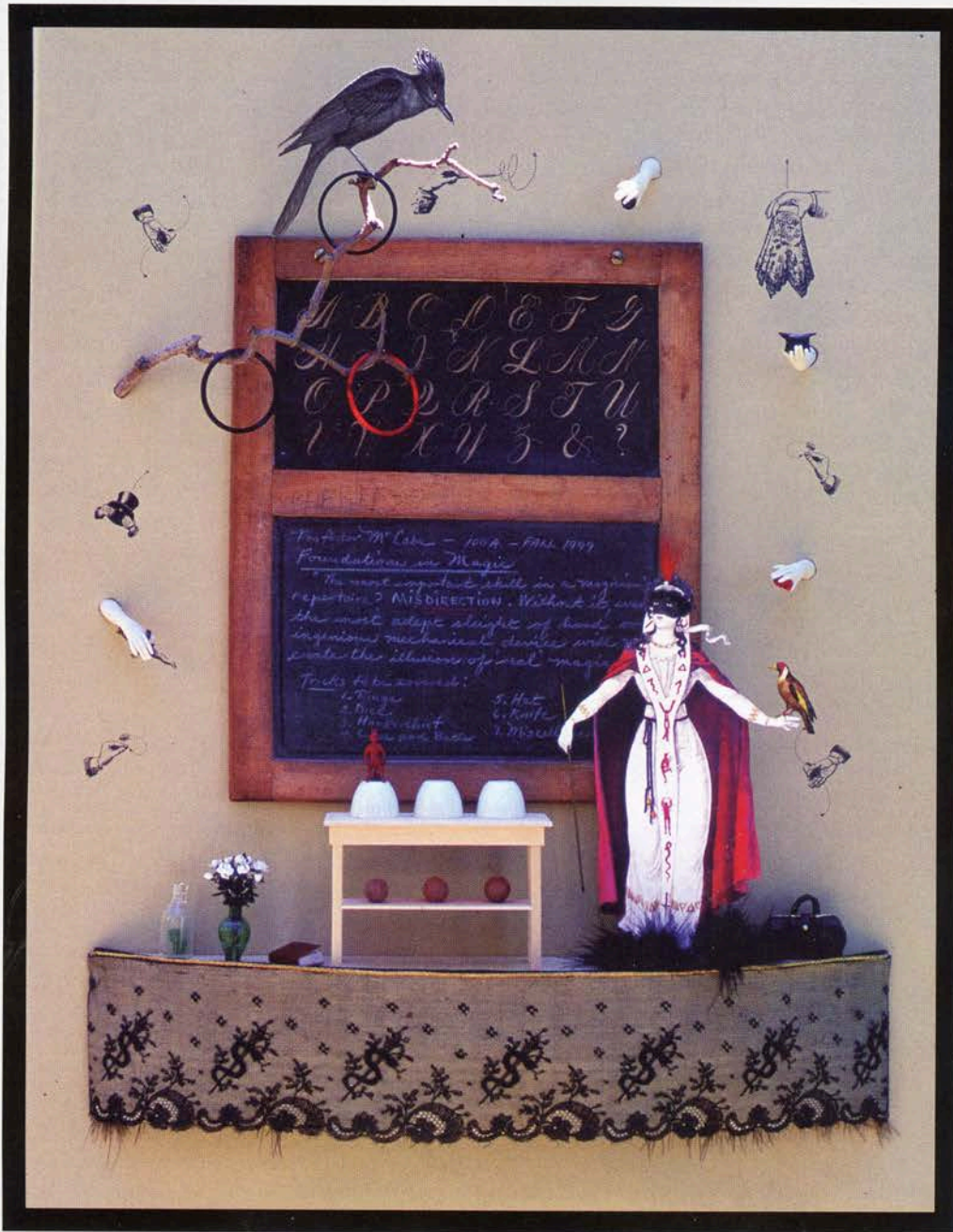


# TEACHING



"MISDIRECTION," 1990

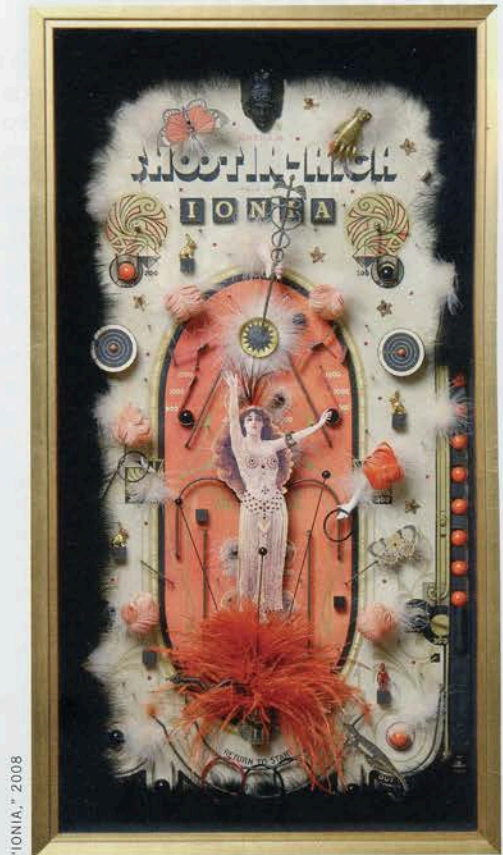
## OUTSIDE THE BOX

## “ MY TEACHING AT THE COLLEGE

has been like a giant collage/assemblage with multiple, changing parts — newly enrolling students, evolving curriculum, and varied lectures and activities, all of which have informed my art and life,” observes Professor Maureen McCabe, who retired this spring. “In fact, if you change the ‘e’ to an ‘a’ in college, you have collage!”

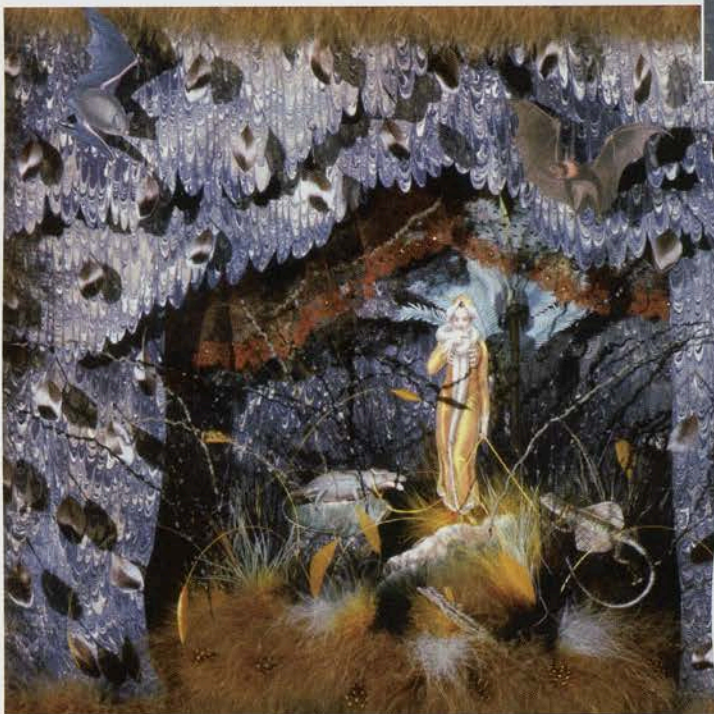
“Swan Song,” an exhibit in Cummings Arts Center this winter, featured a retrospective of McCabe’s work from each of the four decades she taught at Connecticut College. Now the Joanne Toor Cummings ’50 Professor Emeritus of Art, McCabe creates her works from disparate materials — including drawn images, toys, prints, coins, tokens, cards and countless found objects — that are woven into complex narratives of ancient mythology, Celtic history and popular American culture. McCabe personally selected a few of these works for this CC: Magazine feature, choosing some of her favorites from each decade.

There are other important “works” in McCabe’s portfolio, however, that cannot be hung on a wall or exhibited. While creating her own art she has helped to determine the direction her students have taken, as artists and in many other fields. The tributes from her former students, and a selection of their work, formed a major component of the professor’s final exhibit on campus. The shared memories from more than 40 alumni and students proved without a doubt that there will never be a “swan song” for the free-spirited McCabe or those she inspires.



“IONIA,” 2008

## MAUREEN MCCABE SINGS HER SWAN SONG



ABOVE: “TOPAZ WOMAN,” 1986, RIGHT: “TOPAZ WOMAN” (DETAIL)

# A LUMNI REMEMBER PROFESSOR MCCABE



**HER DAZZLING PERSONALITY** and ageless joie de vivre made it impossible to avoid being drawn into her lessons. Her classes were like another world. She noticed meanings and connections in art that others so often missed. To this day I don't know how she manages to give some critiques with a straight face, especially during life drawing when she would circle around the room making side-splitting comments like "Eric, have you ever drawn a breast before? You've gotta give it some weight!" I remember going to New York City to see

a show and Suki Boynton and I were walking arm in arm on the way to the gallery when suddenly a cheeky bird swooped in and dropped a deuce on both of us. Much to our surprise, Professor McCabe was thrilled and exclaimed with fervor, "Girls, this will bring yeeears of good luck!" Such was the nature of this feisty woman. — **Andrea Packard '07**



**PROFESSOR MAUREEN MCCABE** became my art mom. She was my evidence I didn't have to "grow out of it." With her encouragement, I decided to grow into it. ... McCabe showed me the way and suddenly, everything that I was, collected, lived, made sense. She glued together the elements of Jenn Collins the way she taught me how to use the appropriate adhesives, calculating archival appropriateness. In her I saw a reflection, and she supported my growth creatively. I was given the gift of self-confidence and validation that only an amazing teacher and incredible artist can give to her student.

— **Jenn Collins '98**

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"STARLIGHT," 2008

**PROFESSOR MAUREEN MCCABE**, who joined the faculty in 1971, earned her B.F.A. from the Rhode Island School of Design and her M.F.A. from Cranbrook Academy of Art. She has an extensive record of museum and gallery exhibitions in the Americas and Europe. Hollis Taggart Galleries in New York represents her work and featured her in a major 2009 exhibition and publication, "The Image in the Box: From Cornell to Contemporary." She has received many grants and awards including from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation. For excellence in teaching, Connecticut College gave her the 1997-98 John S. King Memorial Teaching Award.



"A LADY OF THE NIGHT LEADING THE BULL," 1997