



## Wild At Heart

*Fay ray's sharp and dangerous collages take on a life of their own*

Tamsen Greene, August 2008

Artist Fay Ray's collages are alive and moving. Like a snake pit, the elements writhe, intertwined, becoming a single monstrous entity with many individual parts. Although her collages project an elusive air of danger, they're also strikingly beautiful. These dense and astral works seem like heavy miniature planets teeming with life in collapsed space. They are the best parts of an action movie compressed.. vying for attention, each element equally captivating—car chases, shoot-outs and femmes fatales.

Selected from the piles of fashion and porn magazines that fill her studio, specific images are carefully filed, then compiled until they are transformed into a new being, framed as discrete works. Part of her series was included last winter in Gagosian Gallery's "Fit To Print," a round-up of artists working in the collage medium. Ray is overjoyed that these images are now returned to their original context—the glossy magazine—creating a cyclical continuation of her inspiration.



Fay Ray, *Thing Inside Myself:02*, 2008.

Ray's other collages include obsessively mono-themed works of jewels, gold or porn, subjects related to desire and want—the longing for sex or luxury. No matter how much we see, whether it's a grid of money shots or countless diamonds, her work mirrors our desire to possess and consume. In addition to collage, the New York-based artist also creates sculpture and performance. Heavily influenced by her everyday life, she is now developing a series of jewelry displays inspired by Manhattan street vendors.

Not of the Tiffany's persuasion, her source materials are the ubiquitous jewelry vendors themselves who are an indispensable part of the city's landscape as they peddle their wares. But taken out of context., they become something entirely different—much like her collages. Ray's work can be seen this summer at Smith-Stewart and Exit Art in New York City. An interesting example of urban renewal before its time, maybe the advent of housing projects, but like you said earlier there is also Le Corbusier. I guess you could say I am fascinated with instances where black esthetics and modernist esthetics collide.