



**LUCKY DOG:**  
THE ART *of*  
PETER CLARK

BY SUSIE MEISTER



**“LUCKY!”** *This is what artist Peter Clark exclaims when describing how he gets to combine many of his passions and get paid for it. Lucky, indeed, but not just for him; the rest of us get to enjoy the whimsical artistry of this talented man, and we’re all better for it.*

# When

we at Maniac first saw Clark’s beautiful work hanging in the halls of the Crosby Street Hotel in New York City, we were struck by the way he repurposes everyday items to create colorful and playful images of dogs. Clark says collage “crept into [his] work style,” and stuck.

Clark began his artistic journey in a small village in Yorkshire in the North of England, where he drew many subjects and fell in love with the practice. His path took him to art school in Manchester and he specialized in graphic design and illustration. Ultimately, he landed his dream job as a TV graphic designer. Never satisfied to stick with just one thing though, he kept doing some cutout animation and illustration work, and even ended up working in Hollywood for a time.

Ever on the move, Clark worked in Europe and Amsterdam, but his path to dog collages was a result of the enthusiasm the public had for a particular experimental piece of a pooch. His work featuring our four-legged friends kept growing as interest in these pieces drew more attention. This accidental directional change was a boon for Clark who said the dogs’ “varied shapes became interesting” to him and he fell in love with the work.

While Clark insists his intricate designs are “just plain collage,” his admirers find them simultaneously playful and thought-provoking. He highlights some of the beautiful things we all see in our dogs, and he somehow adds even more color and depth. Clark says he is drawn to the printed image, such as tickets, wrappers and advertising, and uses these items to create the dog images. He says “recycling adds detail and interest within the big outline/shape of the objects and creatures” that he creates.

Perhaps his ability to portray personality in his canine creations comes from the inspiration

from his own mixed breed doggie named Peggy. She is a combination of Jack Russell, whippet, and possibly a poodle or schnauzer. She sounds as playful and fun as Clark’s work. He says she is “gentle, intelligent, fantastic, friendly, and loving...in fact, she is perfectly wonderful.” And Clark’s description of his dog confirms what we expected, he isn’t just good at creating doggie art, he is also good at being a doggie daddy.

Peter Clark says he hopes his work brings a smile to those who see it, and it certainly does for us! He likes watching as people look closer and see the detail and jokes embedded in his collages. Because they are made of a variety of materials, Clark can include text and visual gags that add personality to the pieces.

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The fun of Clark’s work is in the way they create the same feeling of joy and playfulness that we have when a dog is around. Watching people encounter a puppy on a busy sidewalk you’ll see faces light up in a childlike wonder. Clark’s work, elicits that same emotion. He does man’s best friend justice, so we think we’re the lucky ones.

Peter Clark has a show featuring his dog pieces at the Rebecca Hosack Gallery, 62 Mott Street, NY, NY beginning November 12. See more of his work at [peterclarkcollage.com](http://peterclarkcollage.com).

