

Artist's Statement: Bob Moore

New Members' Show, Plastic Club, Jan. 5-24, 2014

I create digital collages (in musical terms, *remixes* or *mash-ups*) from Public Domain images. In other words, I take images that have passed out of copyright (or never were under copyright) and recombine and manipulate them into my own personal statement. Because of copyright law, much of this work dates from the early 20th century -- the monochromatic days of World War I and the Roaring Twenties. I get the images I use as raw material from various Public Domain websites, such as the *Internet Archive*.

My graphic style is strongly influenced by my experience recovering from open-heart surgery in 2010, when I was in an anesthesia-induced near-hallucinatory state. On sleepless nights, I would close my eyes to watch – and study – the grainy biological "light shows" inside my eyelids. The subject matter is also influenced by what I see when I dream -- the surreal, the ordinary, the puzzling, the unsettling.

I approach the work of the past with respect. I do not think I am superior to the engravers, photographers and illustrators of yesteryear because I have a more current critical vocabulary. In these images, I honor the craft of my artistic ancestors..

I use a variety of different computer programs to create my images -- Photoshop, Paintshop Pro, and Gimp. I have little formal art training.

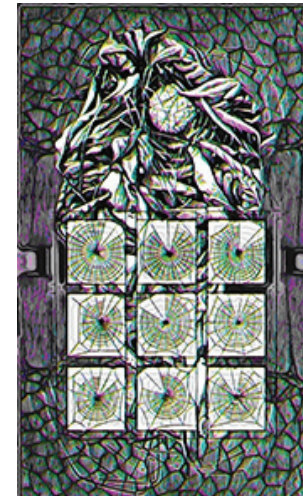
I upload my work to my blog www.philly-bob.net. Below are the blog text entries for two of the images in this show.



WWI German U-Boat Control Room

From the Flickr Commons collection of the *Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums* in coastal England, an interior photograph of UB-110, a German submarine sunk by the British in 1918, then raised, photographed in drydock, and scrapped. (110 must be an unlucky number: in World War II, a German U-110 was also captured; that 1942 capture led to the breaking of the Enigma code; the story is told in the movie *U-571*.) This image represents a colorizing and "texturizing" of the original black-and-white photo.

Link1: www.flickr.com/photos/twm_news/8770687732/



Spider Stuff: Lattice, Cocoon, Mating

Three collaged images from the multi-volume 1889 American *Spiders and their Spinningwork: A Natural History of the Orbweaving Spiders of the United States* (Link1). One (center) shows a spider family's different web designs built on a nine-window laboratory lattice; the second (top) shows a perfectly spherical cocoon nestled in foliage and wrapped in webbing; and the third, in the background, barely visible, shows two spiders "pairing" in their web. All you can see of the two love-making arachnids is their skinny legs at top and bottom.

Link1: archive.org/details/americanspiderst01mccouft