

This Must Be the Place

Janie Marino

Artist's Statement

This digital collage acts as a visual analysis of the theme of home in David Byrne's diverse body of work. It examines and combines nearly 100 works from a career spanning half a century, including albums with Talking Heads, solo projects, and other musical collaborations; films in which Byrne was a subject, actor, or creator; books written by and about him; and various works of static visual art. In addition to analyzing, this project also visualizes Byrne's homey rhetoric and references through a combination of text and imagery—whether replicating or borrowing iconography to reinterpreting Byrne's source material abstractly and symbolically. The collage combines several media (original paintings, found imagery, text manipulation, etc.) to reflect the multimodal and amorphous nature of Byrne's methodology. Each section of the "house" is loosely inhabited by an individual Byrne project, but many scenarios necessitated blending and blurring elements. A variety of conflicting styles and contradictory details further indicate the unpredictable nature of Byrne's career. Lastly, through vibrant colors and playful dynamism, I hoped to convey Byrne's iconic spirit of humor and whimsy.



Janie Marino is an English Ph.D. student at UND who previously studied fine arts and graphic design at the Kansas City Art Institute and earned her M.A. in English at the University of Wyoming. Now she combines these disciplines, creating multimodal work that blends literary and visual art. Her academic interests include aestheticism, surrealism, avant-gardism, medieval art, and humor. Outside of school, she loves watching bad movies and reading good books. Her favorites include anything by Kurt Vonnegut, mystery novels, and nonfiction disaster narratives, particularly those featuring shipwrecks, survival cannibalism, and arctic exploration gone wrong.