

The San Diego  
**Union-Tribune.**

VISUAL ARTS

Industrial-strength design

## Collages by Nathan Gluck stand out from the pack

By Robert L. Pincus

ART CRITIC

October 16, 2008



Nathan Gluck was friends with Andy Warhol going back to the early 1950s and worked closely with him in Warhol's pre-pop art studio, as a graphic designer. They produced now-famous shoe ads for I. Miller, windows for Bonwit Teller and Tiffany's and Christmas cards for Tiffany's and the Museum of Modern Art, among many others.

After retiring from a career as a graphic designer and art director in 1995, Gluck became a prolific collage artist. The 49 examples on view at the Athenaeum Music & Arts Library are filled with eye-catching images and with the marvelous miscellany he collected.

Everything in these small compositions reveals a sharp eye for design coupled with an easygoing and persuasive artistic vision. "Slibowitz Serenade" typifies his talent, with its wry arrangement of a liquor label that gives the work its title, floating against a fragment of a musical score punctuated by stars, a fragment of a sculpture, some images of butterflies and a Greco-Roman figure in profile.

Gluck's collages are thick with references to Europe. "Opera/Theater" is filled with ticket stubs from operas and concerts amassed in varied continental venues. But he employed traces of his recent life in San Diego too. "Hot 7s" culls from things he collected here – a California lottery ticket, a memento from Old Town.

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Gluck died on Sept. 27 at 90, a few days after his show, "Limited Time Offer," opened. The title, derived from one of his collages, comments inadvertently on the reality of mortality. The works on view, full of visual life and obvious appreciation of the world, are a fine tribute to a man who was keenly appreciated in New York and San Diego.

**Nathan Gluck: Limited Time Offer**, through Nov. 8.

Athenaeum Music & Arts Library, 1008 Wall St., La Jolla, CA. [l Athenaeum.org](http://l Athenaeum.org)