

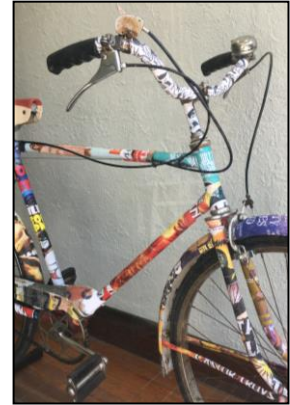
# JEFF BUTTERS

## *Go for the Byrne*

Bicycle, wood, found posters, 45 rpm record, CD, book

“Always on my music periphery David Byrne was a bit of an enigma for me. Is he an experimental genius? Is he to be appreciated? I didn’t give it much thought to be honest. He left the fringe and became more of a central figure for me when I learned (thank you Wikipedia and HPL Reference Dept.) that he spent a good portion of his childhood in the neighbourhoods where I grew up on the East Mountain.

This unexpected connection inspired me to investigate his work more closely and I have come to appreciate David Byrne more as an artist. Turns out he is also a bicycle activist (‘Bicycle Diaries’, D Byrne, 2009). He uses the bicycle as his principle form of transportation at home in NYC and when on tour. I like bicycles and so does Hamilton. The local connections to this avant-garde musician intrigue me.



Detail of bicycle from *Go for the Byrne*



Detail from *Go for the Byrne*

I am reminded of Byrne when I examine the unique poster culture and boundary pushing music scene here in Hamilton. I have been collecting the posters for years, recycling them from telephone poles or from store front windows. Rich in colour, design, ingenuity, and sometimes weathered texture, the posters are a testament to local artists and highlight Hamilton area musicians, venues and musical events.

The posters represent a variety of genres, genders and demographics. By meeting together in collage style, they describe how diverse and superabundant the Hamilton music scene is. The addresses included in the collage are the three places that David Byrne lived in Hamilton as a child (approx. 1952-1958).

Through this installation, I invite you to connect. Connect with today’s diverse and eclectic music scene in Hamilton by viewing the collages and also to connect to a unique part of Hamilton’s musical heritage by getting on a bicycle (just like David would have you do) and visit the places he lived.”

- Jeff Butters

**About the Artist:**

Born, raised and living in Hamilton, Jeff Butters is a retired educator, public office holder and small business owner. As an aspiring artist, Jeff identifies with Viola Davis when she says, "The purpose of an artist is to make us feel less alone." Combine this with inspiration received from on a recent visit to the Tate Modern, Jeff is investigating Nouveau Realism and lacerated poster art and how it can relate to his immediate environment here in Hamilton. Jeff's work will be on display until November 26, 2018.

**The Anne Foster Windows:**

As part of the City of Hamilton, Tourism and Culture Division's ongoing support of the creative industries, local artists will be invited to create and install window displays that celebrate Hamilton's music scene. This space, the Anne Foster Window, is a fitting home for music themed displays as the entryway lead to the Anne Foster Music shop for almost 50 years (1947-1995). For more information visit [www.hamilton.ca/music](http://www.hamilton.ca/music).

