



Images and symbols of women's creative abilities in the Women's Art Exhibit in 167 EMU.
are represented in the 53 works of arts included

Photo by Jeffrey Burns

Art show looks at female experience

"Song to My Mother's Mother," an 8½-foot totem by Lowell artist Indra, is the largest of 53 art works featured in the Women's Art Exhibit in Room 167 EMU.

"Women artists deserve equal recognition," says Betsy Henning, coordinator of the exhibit which is being held in conjunction with the Women's Symposium. "They (women) provide us with images and symbols of creative energies, emotion and intellectual insights unique to the female experience."

Historically women artists have been suppressed, says Henning, noting that in the

19th century women were barred from receiving medals or prizes for their artwork. Even in the 20th century many women have been denied access to drawing classes, she adds.

The exhibit is geared towards showing new artists, says Henning, adding that she has made a conscious effort to involve art from women of diverse backgrounds.

The exhibit includes photos, watercolors, architectural designs, ceramics, drawings, prints, fabric art, sculpture, weaving, oriental scrolls and jewelry.

The exhibit is open from 12 to 5 p.m., May 1-5.

Women's Symposium kicks off week of events with 'Herstory Day'

By JENNIFER GREENLEAF
Of the Emerald

The third annual Women's Symposium begins today in the EMU without the charges of racism that dogged the event last year, but not without controversy.

A total of 115 events are scheduled throughout the week, with about 6,500 people expected to attend before the symposium ends Saturday.

Each day in the five-day program will have a theme, beginning with "Herstory Day" today.

"Herstory Day" will include a discussion on women and the law, a talk on women in prison by Laurel Paulson, a presentation by story teller Cynthia Orr, a May Party at the YWCA and a screening of films made by Eugene-area women.

Coordinators Elizabeth Yasuda and Ana Maria Fietze say they have worked since last October to bring off the event. Their work hasn't been without conflict.

A dispute arose when symposium coordinators booked songwriter-singer Chris Williamson, a lesbian-feminist to perform tonight. Following Williamson's agreement to perform, a Portland women's musical group, Izquierda, decided not to attend the symposium.

Yasuda says the group declined to perform on the bill with Williamson because many women would not be able

to afford both concerts.

Money has been a source of conflict elsewhere. The EMU Cultural Forum will sponsor Williamson's concert and pay her \$1,500 fee. Izquierda, which would have been sponsored by the symposium, would have received only \$200, a difference some women felt was unfair.

Yasuda explained that the symposium didn't hire Williamson, but permitted the Cultural Forum to book her into the EMU space the symposium had reserved. The Forum affiliated the concert with the symposium.

Izquierda will perform in Eugene at some other time, Yasuda says.

The conflict over the groups was a minor version of last year's symposium boycott when minority women charged they were not fairly represented at the symposium.

No such charges have been leveled at Yasuda, a Japanese-American, and Fietze, a Mexican-American, who say they've tried to bring a minority perspective to the event.

"Ana and I used techniques which are more appropriate to different cultures," Yasuda says. "You can't put a notice in a newspaper and expect a minority woman to respond to it."

Conflicts aside, Yasuda says this year's symposium will "celebrate the diversity of women's lives," from right-

to-lifers opposing abortion to radical lesbians.

"This kind of experience is much more valuable than what you get in books," says Yasuda. "Women can turn to each other to learn instead of experts."

"We as women are valuable resources to one another," she continues. "Our common experiences are where we can share strength that can only be an asset to our everyday living and survival," she said. "We would like to see the symposium build communication among the diverse women's groups in the area."

Yasuda says the recent Take Back the Night march has recharged her after months of exhaustive planning for the symposium. She and Fietze have been working up to 80 hours a week for a \$39-a-month stipend.

"Our energy comes from the heart and the head, from inside, like the Japanese kiai (inner force). We're definitely not doing it for the money," Yasuda says.

Wednesday's theme will be education, with presentations by both anti-abortion and pro-choice groups as well as a socialist-feminist analysis of the revolution in Iran. A presentation on battered women and a lecture by deaf stuntwoman Kitty O'Neill will also take place.

Sexuality is the topic for Thursday,

when discussions on sexuality from a woman's perspective, the lesbian view, and rape in Eugene are set.

On Friday, Culture Day will feature a multimedia presentation on violence against women, a minority women's panel and rap session, a filmmakers workshop, a discussion on the situation of handicapped women, a theatre presentation by senior citizens and a writers workshop with Kady Van Durs. Women are encouraged to bring their original work to the Van Durs workshop.

The symposium will culminate Saturday when the theme turns to power. There will be demonstrations of karate and kung fu by women, an afternoon women's music festival, local writers reading from works-in-progress and a discussion of women and power.

Saturday night the symposium will celebrate Cinco de Mayo, Mexican Independence Day, by co-sponsoring a dinner and evening of entertainment with the Chicano Student Union.

Exact times and places of events will be posted in the EMU.

Childcare services, coordinated by ASUO President Ramon Herrera, will be available during the symposium. Children can be left at the Pi Kapp Alpha fraternity, 818 E. 15th St., during the day and at the Child Care and Development Center, 1533 Moss St., during evenings and on Saturday.

HERSTORY Today's events (all events in EMU)

9:30 a.m. — Dream Interpretation, Room 108; Women's Civil Rights, Room 110; Improvisational Dance Workshop, Dad's Room.

10:30 a.m. — Women in Law, Century F; Women's Role in Disarmament, Room 101.

11:30 a.m. — Hatsheputs — First Great Woman Leader of Egypt and the World, Century A; Women's Treatment of Other Women, Room 108.

Noon — Women's Bills in Legislature, Century F; Mother Earth: Women Working the Land, Room 213; Myths of Ms. in Prison, Room 110.

1:30 p.m. — Storytelling, Room 101; The Year of the Child, Room 111; Children of Incarcerated Women, Room 109.

2:30 p.m. — May Day Party, YWCA; Women in Transition, Room 108; Women as Divine, Forum Room; Assertiveness Training, Room 110.

3:30 p.m. — The Challenge of Creativity, Room 214; The Adaption of Latin American Women to U.S. Society, Room 109; Osprey River Trips for Women, Room 111.

4 p.m. — Experimental Theatre Workshop, Room 113.

5:30 p.m. — Local Women's Films, Forum Room; Relaxation and Stress Workshop, Room 108; Fishbowl Follies, Fishbowl.

7 p.m. — From the Diary of Virginia Woolf, Room 112.

8 p.m. — Cris Williamson and Jackie Robbins in Concert, Ballroom.



Graphic by Tom Ettel