

Artist explores the depths of '50-foot woman'

By Laurie Schwartz
Of the Emerald

She is ravishing in brilliant splashes of house paint. She weighs 500 pounds and fills an entire gallery. She is a cross between Pygmalion's object of desire and shanty-town.

She isn't instantly recognizable as a woman, but closer inspection reveals a pink breast and a spikey black arm. She's of a rather abstract nature, to be sure.

Her creator, University art student Rory Cooper, will be living inside his 50-foot cardboard construction of a woman for the next week. Her insides are streaked with black paint and are plastered with charcoal and pastel drawings.

Her guts include a black-and-white TV, a hotplate, and a small foam mattress.

He enters and exits through, well, her crotch. And he will be staging a ritual performance

between her legs that is about the pain of growth, among other things. The performance is titled "Passage with the fifty-foot woman."

Cooper, 36, describes his work as "avant-garde," "performance art" and "wild." The first performance, tonight at 8, will be free. The second performance on Friday, May 1, will have a \$1 admission charge.

The shows will be at Gallery 141 in Lawrence Hall, near the courtyard.

The 50-foot woman will be on display at the gallery until May 1, and Cooper encourages visitors to explore her interior. Cooper will be performing his ritual in three cardboard costumes to the tune of synthesized music by a University student who goes by the name Nova.

Cooper is not one of those artists who is deadly serious

about his work.

His performance concludes with a segment about a bad stand-up comedian. This segment is designed to "defuse the entire serious intent that may come from the routine," Cooper says.

Cooper ponders a bit when asked about the significance of living within a woman he has created. He's "trying to come to an understanding of the other" he says.

It also is about learning to live with women, he says, but having fun with cardboard and house paint is clearly one of his main motivations.

Cooper takes on a new name with each project, he says. The name he has chosen for this project is Roc Stoner.

Cooper plans to graduate with a B.A. in visual design after receiving 12 credits for the project.

Nicaraguan dance troupe to visit here

The Latin American Support Committee is sponsoring a visit of the Nicaraguan Dance Troupe, Flor de Sacuanjoche, who will be performing in Eugene on Sunday, May 3 in the EMU Ballroom at 6:30 pm.

Members of the dance troupe, 20 high-school-aged dancers, are the official cultural ambassadors from Managua, Nicaragua.

Beginning today, the LASC will be looking for donations of unused pens, pencils, colored markers, rulers, erasers and other educational paraphernalia.



Photo by Maria Corvallis

University art student Rory Cooper and his 50-foot woman, Roc Stoner. Cooper will be living inside the cardboard woman for the next week as part of his project.

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