

DUCK THIS!

Peter Utsey Emerald



Unfine Art

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Sasquatches by Area Artists," which runs through May 14. The opening reception and lecture will be Friday, beginning promptly at 7:32 p.m..

Mediaclast decided to put on a Bigfoot show because of his long-term interest in the creature.

"I've been obsessed about Bigfoot since I was 8 years old," Mediaclast said.

He believes that there is a parallel between the Bigfoot phenomenon and truly independent music.

"Bigfoot researchers are willing to undergo non-acceptance for what they are doing, just like independent artists following their own creativity and influence," Mediaclast said.

The opening reception will also feature three prominent Bigfoot researchers. Autumn Williams will discuss her studies of Bigfoot in Lane County. Her Web site, www.oregonbigfoot.com, compiles Bigfoot sightings in the area and the rest of Oregon. It is a central clearinghouse for Bigfoot sightings. Her site lists 35 reports in the Lane County section

and more than 400 in Oregon.

"I compiled a list from reports and books," Williams said. "I'd like people to know that there are Bigfoot reports around here."

Ray Crowe, director of the International Bigfoot Society, and Henry Franzoni will also speak. Local bands Honey Vizer, Cate and Conway Titty will play Bigfoot-themed songs, and MC Big Balou, the Sasquatch, will spit out lyrics.

Amid the Bigfoot decor, some pieces from Mediaclast's old collections remain on the walls and have appeared since the store opened in the middle of January. Mediaclast said the store has been doing well, despite the downturn in the economy.

"I'm not a hotel, an oil company or a department store," Mediaclast said. "I think what I'm doing is so far outside the economy that I won't be affected."

The concept of the store has changed and evolved over time, but Mediaclast will always carry the collection of independent records. For him, the word "independent" signifies music that is "wild and independent and that defies industry categories."

Keith Robinson's art is currently on the walls of the store, but he is taking it down to make room for the Bigfoot art.

"These boxes are filled with stuff I found along the Amazon River," Robinson said, pointing to DVD cases stuffed with wrappers and ribbons. "I had been doing some different things, but I wanted to put up art here."

Robinson moved to Eugene in January and has been doing odd jobs and playing music while he figures out what he wants to do next. He said Mediaclast's store has given him a perfect place for his art.

The next group show at the Museum of Unfine Art will center around Mediaclast's dog Prudence. The show starts Aug. 1, but Mediaclast said it has nothing to do with the celebration of a certain famous artist.

"It's going to be on Andy Warhol's birthday, and the focus will be on Prudence, not him," Mediaclast said.

The Museum of Unfine Art is located at 537 Willamette St. For more information about the store or "Find the Hidden Bigfoot," call 683-7357.

E-mail reporter Alix Kerl at alixkerl@dailyemerald.com.

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