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TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT EUGENE HILTON - ALL TICKETSWEST OUTLETS - THE WILD DUCK



Aaron Shakra
 Notebooks of DJ Serpentine

America's art shows reflection of culture

I want to follow up with a number of things I discussed in my previous column. If you didn't read it, or don't wish to, I'll summarize: It was about corporate entertainment (in its manifold forms) on the whole being used as a tool by a small, interconnected minority to pacify the masses (you and me). I say interconnected not because there's some underhanded conspiracy afoot, but because it's obvious that the power elite in charge of all these companies have a heck of a lot of mutual interests. Surprise, surprise, there aren't any Saul Williams-reading dreadlocked liberals sitting on the board of directors of Corporation X. No, for the most part, they're a bunch of patriarchal white guys. And I'd say their mutual interests are to stay right where they are — in charge.

At this point, you're probably wondering about a few things. First: What the heck does this have to do with entertainment? I mean, this is the Pulse section. Isn't it supposed to be about arts and entertainment? Aren't there supposed to be movie reviews and fashion briefs? Shouldn't all this patriarchy stuff be somewhere else?

And second: Why should I care? The answer to this is that I want to challenge your idea of what arts and entertainment is all about. I want to show how art does NOT exist in a vacuum, nor is it disconnected from your life or your planet. Art is not an object or a thing — it is living. Furthermore, I want to show how our mediums of entertainment are largely connected to a consumer culture, not one promoting creativity. It's one that promotes waste, gluttony, and over-consumption. And for what? Thoughtless, instant gratification at the expense of the majority of the world.

Art is a powerful mirror for our society and culture. If we use it to take a look at ourselves, the image won't be too pretty. But I'm afraid if we don't look now, we never will. My suspicion is that living in the United States — the world's richest and most powerful country — gives us the sense of detachment and comfort that allows us to turn away from this mirror. Growing up, we become socialized into believing that this way of life is right — or that it is our birthright — and this is the way it's supposed to be. This results in a desensitization to, and marginalization of, our connection with the natural world and ALL the humans in it (not just Americans). Thus, we perceive our present, everyday world as permanent.

Well, it's not! Everything falls apart!

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Courtesy

'The Men's His-tory Exhibit' opened this week and will run through the end of the month.

Art exhibit opens, highlights history of male experience

The exhibit, open through the end of the month, will showcase interpretations of the 'taboo' male gender

By **Ryan Nyburg**
 Senior Pulse Reporter

Shawn Mediaclast — owner and operator of The Museum of Unfine Art and Record Store at 537 Willamette St. — is a man, and through October 31 his museum will host an art show examining all the complexities, mysteries and controversies concerning the male gender.

"The Men's His-tory Exhibit," which opened on Tuesday, is meant to allow local artists to craft their responses and views toward men, with any abstraction on the theme invited. Despite the controversy that such a show could potentially cause, Mediaclast said he finds the topic an important one.

"I think that any topic that makes people a little uneasy or that is slightly taboo is a good area to push some buttons with," Mediaclast said. "I mean that in the most positive way. I also just thought it would be a funny thing to do."

The museum — which Mediaclast opened two years ago in response to the "lack of experimentation," in Eugene — has been home to a number of art shows during its short history. Past subjects have included punk rock, Arthur Feinsein, Bigfoot, fashion and Mediaclast's dog, Prudence.

This show has elicited a variety of responses from local artists, not to mention a diverse selection of subject matter. Artist Ron Omlin chose a dual portrait of President George W. Bush and Chairman Mao Zedong.

"I thought of (the show) as sort of a spoof," Omlin said. "I didn't think of it

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Student-owned club Indigo Scene to open

A new multipurpose venue on Oak Street will host its grand opening on Oct. 31

By **Steven Neuman**
 Freelance Writer

In February of last year, Rolling Stone minted Eugene as one of the top ten campus music scenes in the country, thanks in part to the town's long tradition of homespun clubs and venues. With the opening of Indigo District, a new night spot just off campus, that prestigious list just got a little larger.

On the corner of Oak Street and East 13th Avenue, Indigo District owner Justin Gibbs is preparing for the location's official opening on Halloween. The building had previously been occupied by Fields Brewery.

"We've had a lot of people come

in already and tell us that we should decorate more," he said. "They don't realize the grand opening is on the 31st."

Gibbs said Indigo District isn't just a bar or a concert venue. The space is multi-functional, serving as a coffee shop, bistro, café, bar and performance space, all within the same four walls.

"It's not just a one-trick pony — you can come in any time of day and this place should suit your needs," he said.

The bistro features light menu items and full meals, with soups, salads and vegetarian options. The café serves organic espresso and coffee from Café Mam. Although the menu is small, it will expand as time goes on.

Indigo District will also host bands and performances in a back

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