



Getting Down and Dirty

*Whatever your gardening challenge,
professional help abounds in the queer community*

BY ORIANA GREEN

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Strange wonders

A Portland artist celebrates her spiritual journey with emotional, evocative expressions

BY ORIANA GREEN

Entering into artist Mar Goman's show "Anima Mundi" is indeed like moving into the world of spirits. Her colorful show of mixed-media pieces is currently on view through March 31 at the new Sanctuary for the Arts in downtown Portland's Pearl District. (Formerly located at Marylhurst University, it is a not-for-profit gallery with the mission of celebrating the connections between art and the sacred.)

Goman has been on a rocky personal spiritual journey, trying to reconcile her life as an out lesbian and her membership in a church that was less than welcoming to her

desire to become a deacon.

"I felt like my whole church life was about my struggle for inclusion," she says, though she has recently returned to her church after a change in its leadership.

She now considers herself a rather radical Christian and makes her art by poking at the scars in her soul.

All her work has a primitive, rustic quality that is reflected in her frequent use of found objects. Goman is also in love with pure colors, and this show is a joyous riot of every hue in her expansive rainbow.

After taking in the lively color, the next thing that is



Mar Goman creates her own vocabulary of spirituality

PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

apparent is Goman's love of words.

"I'm a very verbal person, but I'm not a frustrated writer," she explains, adding that she plays a mean game of Boggle.

Every single piece in this show talks back—some speak hushed single words, and others take off on near-heretical rants. "Holy terror" pops up frequently, and is a concept Goman is exploring.

"When you open yourself to God, you have to lose control, and it can be terrifying," she says,

adding that she hopes she doesn't sound too conventional.

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