



"A" - ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

"HOT TICKET" - NEWSWEEK

FRIDAY, MAY 5TH AND SATURDAY, MAY 6TH • 8PM
CRYSTAL BALLROOM PORTLAND

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING MCMENAMIN'S LOCATIONS: THE BARLEY MILL, JOHN BARLEYCORN'S, THE CEDAR HILLS PUB, THE MALL 205 LOCATION AND AT THE CRYSTAL BALLROOM BOX OFFICE. TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT WWW.TICKETWEB.COM. DAY OF SHOW TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE CRYSTAL BALLROOM BOX OFFICE ONLY. ALL TICKETS SUBJECT TO APPLICABLE SERVICE CHARGES. THIS SHOW IS OPEN TO PATRONS AGES 21 AND OVER.

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PORTLAND OPERA

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Will he reform when he learns he's about to become a father?

Ask about special MILLENNIUM MONDAYS!

Sung in English with text projected above the stage

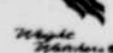
March 25, 27, 29, April 1
Portland Civic Auditorium • 7:30 pm sharp!

FOR TICKETS CALL
(503) 241-1802 or (503) 790-ARTS

Tickets from \$25

Tickets available at all **ticketmaster** outlets including G.I. Joe's, Meier & Frank, Lamb's Thriftway, the PCPA and Portland Opera Box Offices, and other independent locations • www.ticketmaster.com/oregon

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Carol Franc Buck Foundation



ART

Strange wonders

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None who sees her amazing show could walk away believing Mar Goman is conventional. She is clearly tapped into to a Universal Source of creativity. In fact, she finds her artistic inspiration in tribal cultures from all over the world, and that same kind of authentic intention is also evident in her mostly three-dimensional pieces.

"My images have to do with spiritual beings, with the psyche, with the shadow side, with the transformation from life to death, and with the journey toward the holy," she says.

Goman goes on to explain the genesis of an ongoing set of work: "Out of my interest in tribal arts, particularly Hopi kachina dolls, emerged my series of strange angels."

These small sculptures are created from wood, metal, paper and found objects. Goman began making her odd angels 10 years ago and, she says, "by the time I'd made about 200, I realized I wasn't going to stop anytime soon."

She became inspired by the Japanese tradition of making 1,000 cranes for peace and then began numbering her angels, with the idea that by the time she had made 1,000 angels "there would be spiritual enlightenment," she explains.

Being a realist, Goman stopped numbering them at 999. The choir of angels in this show evokes an elemental, emotional response with each figure's very simple directness. And some even sport a sense of humor.

"I'm fascinated with games and game pieces," Goman admits with an impish



PHOTOS BY MARTY DAVIS

Artist Mar Goman—it's not just about some sweet prayer

"Tribal art has been a major influence for me because the primary intent of most tribal art is to make visible the powerful world of spiritual forces—and, this is also the major intent of the rich symbolism of liturgical Christian worship," Goman says.

The single most striking piece in the show is her sculptural *Self-portrait of the Soul*, constructed of painted fiber and attached objects. Some parts are dipped in wax, others are frayed with lots of loose ends, and one hand holds a magnifying glass while the other holds a cross.

"Much of my work seems to come from my own shadow side," the artist confesses, "and I have learned to value my own dark periods as a time to explore the depths of my soul—willingly or not!"

One whole wall of the intimate gallery space is filled with an array of crosses. Made of bones, wood, bottle caps, buttons, metal and fiber, they express a wide range of emotions. One is painted with the words "Holy Terror: believe me it's not just about some sweet prayer."

Goman says she creates most of her pieces intuitively and only later does she realize the meanings in the metaphors she has created. Such was the case with a particularly powerful cross that is adorned simply with a large rusty gate latch and a thin rusted heart.

grin—indeed, several angels and crosses whimsically feature dominoes and Scrabble tiles.

The process of collecting the myriad materials with which she works is also part of the journey for Goman.

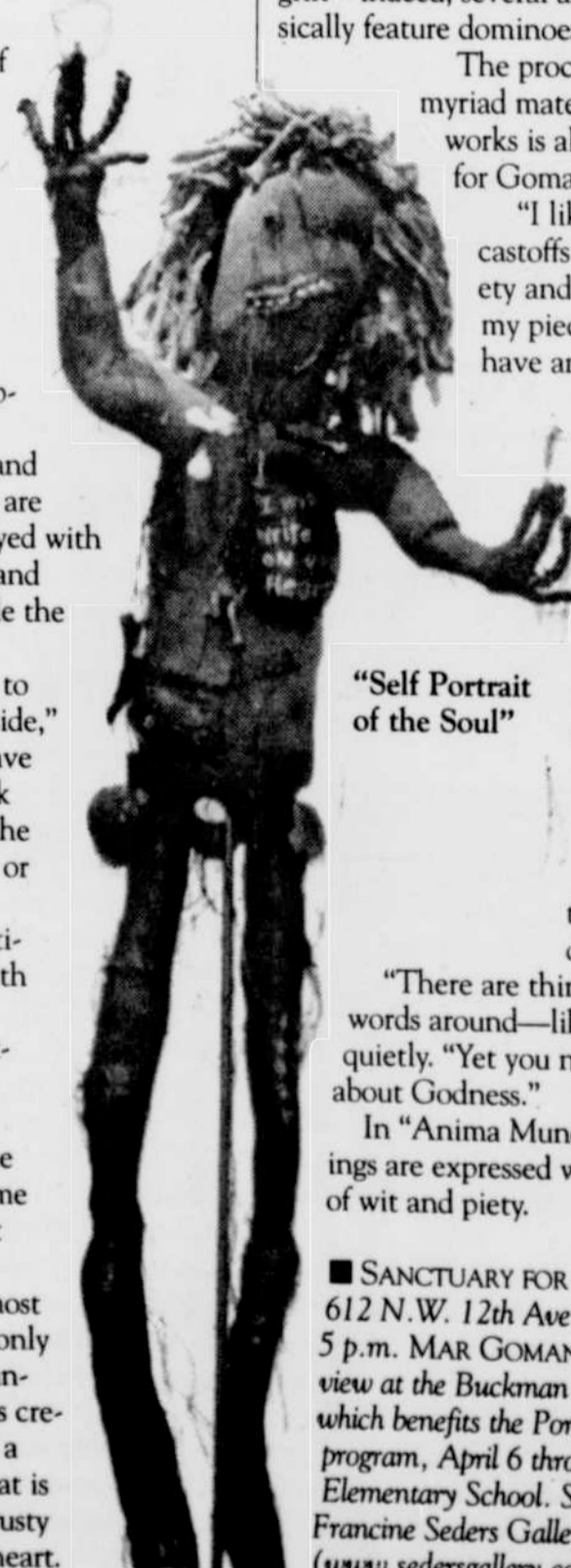
"I like the idea of using the castoffs from a consumer society and giving them new life in my pieces," she says, adding, "I have an entire room in my studio devoted to storing all these strange and wonderful objects."

Other series in the show are *Library of Babel*, painted rocks that represent the artist's own dictionary of spirit symbols and a vocabulary each person can interpret on her own; and laminated *Lexicon Cards* that beg to be taken off the wall and laid out in divination.

"There are things that you can't put words around—like God," Goman says quietly. "Yet you need to express feelings about Godness."

In "Anima Mundi," this fine artist's feelings are expressed with a rare combination of wit and piety.

■ SANCTUARY FOR THE ARTS, located at 612 N.W. 12th Ave., is open from noon to 5 p.m. MAR GOMAN's work will also be on view at the Buckman Art Show and Sale, which benefits the Portland Public Schools art program, April 6 through 8 at Buckman Elementary School. She is represented by Francine Seders Gallery in Seattle (www.sedersgallery.com).



"Self Portrait of the Soul"