

"Grannylicious." Just as often, he begins a new work without knowing what it will depict, as happened with Granny's sister piece, a seductive pineapple named "Piñalicious."

"Sometimes I don't have a game plan," he admits. After painting a gradient background, for instance, a canvas sat around for weeks. "I wasn't sure if it would turn into a seascape or a mountain scene or a sunset. I put it aside and worked on some other pieces before deciding that after painting the apples I'd paint a pineapple."

One of the works depicting a bird of paradise flower will be sold, with the proceeds benefiting the Sweethearts of Portland Scholarship Fund, which provides resources for queer artists to pursue secondary education.

Even before the paint was dry on this exhibit, Kennedy began planning unusual

shows of several other new collections. Six-foot paintings of showgirls, for example, will be accompanied by a live performance on opening night. At another location, Kennedy plans to display paintings of flowers alongside the silk arrangements that inspired them.

And with an air of mischief normally found in Misha, he hints at a special exhibit for later this year that undresses the connection among model, photograph and painting.

The idea, he suggests, is to "not just leave 'em wanting more, but to give 'em a little something extra. An experience that [suggests] life is wonderful and to celebrate life." □

MICHAEL "MISHA" KENNEDY's Spring Folly continues through May 31 at the Scandals Other Side Gallery, 1038 S.W. Stark St.

A fair trade

Cascade AIDS Project returns the annual Art for Life benefit

BY LISA BRADSHAW

Drink fine wine, meet chic peeps, buy beautiful art and rub elbows with James Canfield at the Cascade AIDS Project Art for Life auction fundraiser May 10 at Wieden+Kennedy, 224 N.W. 13th Ave.

This annual event will raise between \$300,000 and \$400,000 for the nonprofit organization, which provides HIV prevention, support, housing and advocacy programs in Oregon and Southwest Washington. On the block are 350 pieces of original art—mostly paintings and photography but also small sculptures and some pottery—donated by artists largely from the Portland area.

Charles Sikes was one of them. Having moved to Portland right before last year's auction, he missed the deadline to donate. But he left his information, and CAP contacted him this year.

Sikes and his partner were looking to get out of Las Vegas and chose Portland because of its "atmosphere," he says. "We liked the liberal, Birkenstock kind of attitude and the fact that the gay community seemed to be pretty well integrated into the community."



Artist Charles Sikes created "Valley of Peace" specifically for Cascade AIDS Project's Art for Life

Although it's his first CAP auction, Sikes has been donating his art to AIDS fund-raisers for years, explaining that he and his partner "were right in the middle of the epidemic when it first started, and we were watching our buddies drop left and right."

He's glad he has something obvious to offer to agencies like CAP. "It's just what good people do," he states. "I'm just really blessed that I have this gift or whatever you want to call it, and I have no problem sharing that. It's a karma thing; I've found the more I throw out there, the more good things come back into my life."

The fund-raiser officially starts at 5:30 p.m. with a silent auction, which leads to a 7:30 p.m. live auction, then a 9 p.m. performance by Oregon Ballet Theatre. Throughout, attendees enjoy the cuisine of 17 area restaurants and complimentary beer and wine.

Tickets are \$50, but those who want to contribute \$250 for a special Patron ticket indulge in Patron Preview and Bidding from noon to 4 p.m., which includes a buyout of any items one might particularly be enamored of.

And then there's the after-performance Patron Supper Club only for Patron ticket holders, which, according to CAP events manager Jeff Pellissier, is set up "like this martini, New York kind of lounge bar...very hip." The Patron ticket overall, he notes, is "a very good deal...for the serious art collector." (At press time, nearly no Patron tickets were left.) □

To purchase tickets to ART FOR LIFE call 503-223-5907, and don't forget to ask them to mail you an auction catalog for early perusal.



Fab photography is among the eclectic array of art pieces at the May 11 event

eating out eating out eating out eating out



All Roads Lead To Bridges

2716 NE MLK

503 288-4169

7am-2pm Mon-Fri, 8am-3pm Sat-Sun

Sidewalk Seating, Breakfast All Day
Catering for All Occasions

Kinda hungry but not starving?

See our

Life Bites

section on page 45!



Pizza, Salad, Sandwiches, and Oregon Microbrews sold here

Free Delivery (60th-River, Glisan-Woodstock)



Oasis Cafe

3701 SE Hawthorne
503-231-0901

Thank you for 8 great years!

Wild Abandon and

The Red Velvet Lounge

Dinner, Barfare and cocktails
Weekend break fast
Closed Tuesday evenings
503.232.4458

2411 SE Belmont
Portland

William's on 12th

French Cuisine

Both Open 7 Days a week

207 SE 12th

(503) 963-9226

&

Open for Breakfast
Sat & Sun 8 am - 1 pm
Sun - Thurs 5 - 10 pm
Fri & Sat 5 - 11 pm

213 SE 12th
(503) 230-2381

No Reservations Necessary at

Buckman Bistro

Casual fine dining neighborhood bar & bistro