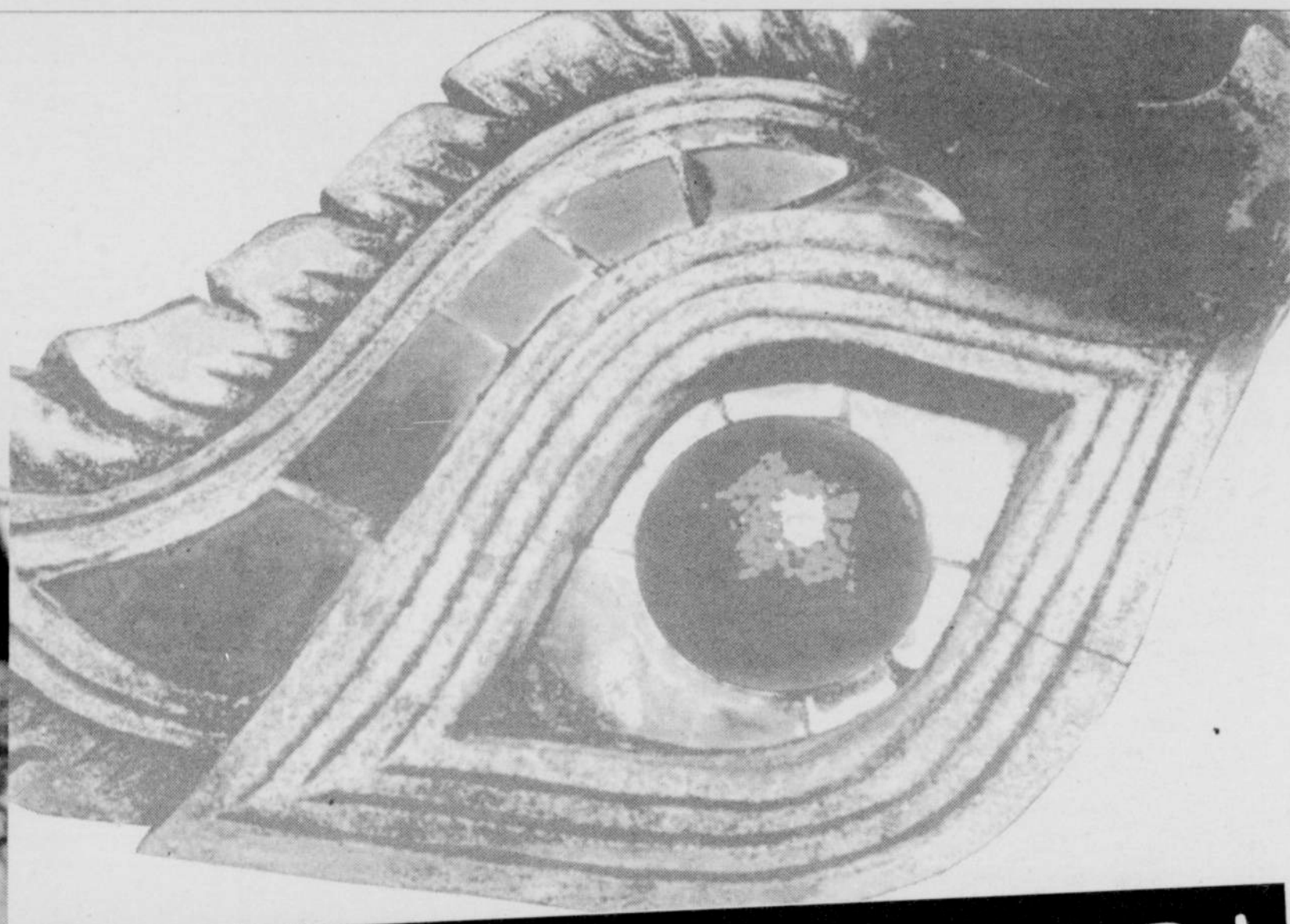




Lisa Newman (left) and Llewyn Máire McCobb plan to revive El-fest in a new format in 2007.



WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE!

**2 Gyrلز has the last word
with fourth and final festival of freaks**

BY JODI DARBY

2005 marks the fourth and final installation of 2 Gyrلز Performative Arts' Interactive Language Festival, a spectrum of live art, media and experience in which regional and global artists, cultural groups and communities converge for a month dedicated to exploring identity, bodies, political environments, dreams, trauma, love and nightmares. This manifestation of El-fest will consist of pan-genre, interdisciplinary visual and musical events throughout the city, each focusing on a different creative "language."

The 2 Gyrلز themselves are Llewyn Máire McCobb and Lisa Newman, both no slouches in their own artistic right. Newman is an intermedia performance artist whose work is an ongoing exploration of languages—written, verbal, physical and the "undefined." She endeavors to create new territories within the "audience/performer" dynamic, pushing these previously assigned roles into more interactive ones. During the past seven years she has written and performed 15 solo works in addition to participating in several collaborative performances with the Rev. Rafik Legbara, Sardonik

Grin, the Gyrلز Grip, Human Sculpture and Technician.

In 1995 Newman began her work as an intern at Eugene's *Two Girls Review*. The experimental arts journal later branched into a performance-based resource in order to financially support its publication. Between 1995 and 1997, the group played host to local and international artists including photographers Joel Peter Witkin and Andres Serrano, sex guru Annie Sprinkle, queer performance artist/activist Drew Pissarra and the late, great novelist Kathy Acker.

"This was the first time I had seen performance art," says Newman, "and it completely blew my mind."

In 1996 she performed *Experiments in Lion Taming* at the 10th annual Cleveland International Performance Festival. Her work includes paint, photography, video, text, fire installation and human sculpture.

In 2000 *Two Girls Review* became 2 Gyrلز LLC, headed by Newman and McCobb, who had met at several events and admired each other's work. "Our visions work well together," they agree while rolling their sleeves to reveal matching 2 Gyrلز tattoos.

McCobb describes himself as a transsexed (male-to-

other) genderqueer Celtic-North American. ("Ze" and "hir" are McCobb's preferred pronouns.) Ze also works as trans/gender resources coordinator at Outside In, serves as a member of Basic Rights Oregon's Trans Advocacy Group and is co-founder of Pan-Zen, a culture-jamming trans media performance art syndicate. McCobb's creative work manifests itself through live art, video and sound, text-based performance, graphic arts and assemblage sculpture. Hir work seeks to challenge and explore the constructs of identity and expose the mediation of socio-cultural experience.

McCobb has been making and exhibiting work throughout the United States, Canada and overseas for more than 15 years. Hir most recent actions include the DJ project Try My Cabbage, the multimedia Gyrلز Grip performance *Boot Camp*, the durational installation *Define Me Where I Pea*, visual art exhibits and a developing score, *Surgeomoney: Loving the Alien*, to be performed in several international festivals this year.

In January 2001 a fire consumed the 2 Gyrلز office space, destroying equipment, archives, media and files. All material was lost, and a large debt was incurred. The set-

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