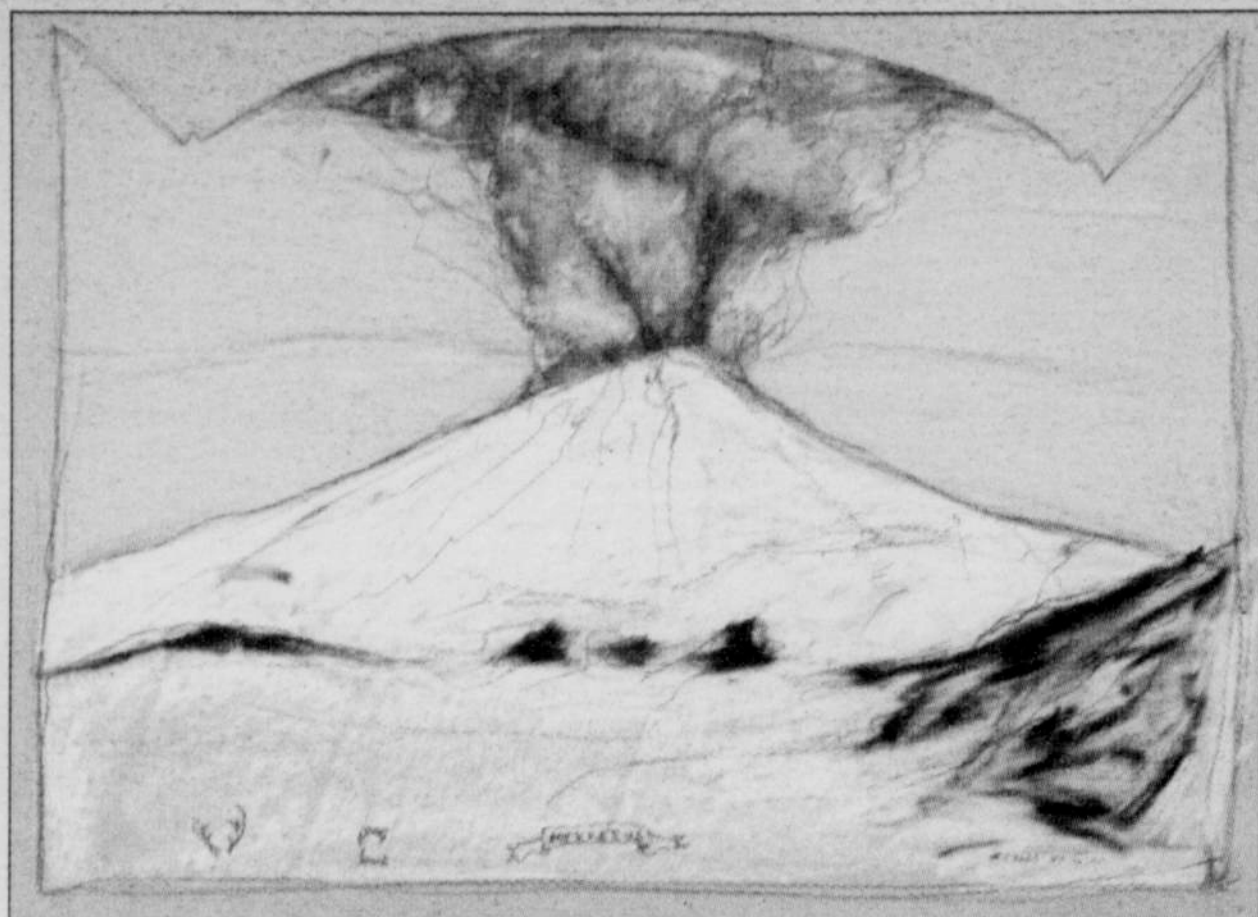




Marc Manning (below) captures the violence of nature in his paintings, which are on display this month at Portland Art Center Annex.

The Edge of Sleep and Waking

Vast plains of darkness through which rise hopeful signs of light. Visions of violence and emptiness through which emerge images of comfort and beauty.

"My work," writes visual artist Marc Manning, "attempts to recreate the feeling of that precious few seconds after waking up from a dream."

Walking close to that dusk of consciousness, Manning's work embraces the imagery of both waking and sleeping worlds, without working at deducing meaning from that imagery. "This moment," he continues, "contains a universe charged with human emotion, without logic, answers or purpose."

Manning, a gay artist and musician, began his life and career in Philadelphia and has hailed from Portland since 2003. In the Rose City, he has enjoyed a number of showings, including exhibitions at Disjecta and The Haze Gallery. He and three other artists (all featured in the current issue of *Portland Modern*) are on display through Feb. 25 at Portland Art Center Annex, 32 N.W. Fifth Ave. A portion of the sales will help the center reinvigorate its space.

At first, one is fooled by the seeming two-dimensional nature of Manning's paintings. But after a moment's viewing, the eye focuses on unimaginable depths and secret subtle energies. The imagistic, post-photography feel to some of Manning's pieces—as if the camera has been abandoned for the brush, but not the lens—is complemented by random penciled images and words. He actually has worked with etched photography in the past, though his current use of oil pastel on paper arguably has a more vibrant, immediate pulse and play.

Manning's exhibit includes "Ursa Major and Ursa Minor" and "Canis Major," two extraordinary pieces that are deconstructed, secular versions of Van Gogh's night skies, in which there are no divine colors, no ascended-man architecture—only the blackness of night and the soft, fuzzy ambiguities of stars, promising comfort after the "miles to go." Evocations of violent nature, including "Tornado," "Tsunami" and "Forest Fire," start the viewers deep in intense blocks of black or nightmarish swipes of color but lead them to embracing warmth and comforting passions—almost an acceptance of the disastrous beautiful.

Also available for viewing and purchase is a limited edition (and shockingly affordable) artist's book called *All Your Things*, a collection of amusing, disturbing and beautiful line drawings.

—Glenn Scofield Williams



FRI • MARCH 3

The Women's Health Network presents the lecture **What Is Sexual Health?** at Kennedy School. Continental breakfast provided. (8:30-11:30 am. 5736 NE 33rd Ave.)

Southminster Presbyterian Church in Beaverton showcases more than 80 established and emerging Northwest fine artists during the 28th annual **Celebration of Creativity** through March 5. (10 am-5 pm Friday and Saturday, noon-4 pm Sunday. 12250 SW Denney Road.)

Out Dancing's **beginning country two-step** class starts tonight and continues every Friday in March at Ankeny Street Studio. **Intermediate West Coast swing** class follows. (7-8 pm swing [\$20 for month], 8-9 pm salsa [\$24 for month]. 975 SE Sandy Blvd. 503-236-5129. out_dancing@yahoo.com.)

SAT • MARCH 4

Gay spiritual director Dale Rhodes facilitates **Fundamentals of the Enneagram Personality Typology System**, an educational and lively group introduction to this sophisticated and powerful ancient system for self-understanding and personal development, at HealthQuest. (9 am-1 pm. 1330 SE 39th Ave. \$60-\$70 from 503-295-4481 or www.enneagramportland.com.)

More than 60 artists display their work in businesses and residences throughout the Clinton, Division, Ladd's Addition and lower Hawthorne neighborhoods during the third annual **Southeast Area Art Walk** through March 5. (10 am-5 pm. For exhibition locations, visit www.seportlandartwalk.com.)

Wildcat Haven, which rescues captive-born wildcats and gives them a safe home, presents its annual fund-raiser **A Night Out for Wildcats** at Melody Ballroom featuring live and silent auctions, music, hors d'oeuvres and a no-host bar. Attire is "jungle safari best"; be creative with animal prints, but no furs allowed! (6-10 pm. 615 SE Alder St. \$35 from 503-678-1409.)

Satori Men's Chorus presents *Expressions of Peace* through March 5 at the Community Music Center. (8 pm

Saturday, 7 pm Sunday. 3350 SE Francis St. \$7-\$12 from 503-299-4454.)

Urban cowboys and girls are in abundance during DJ Crystal's **country western dance** at the Portland Metro Club (PPAA). (9 pm-1 am. 618 SE Alder St. \$5.)

SUN • MARCH 5

More than 1,500 people come together for the 31st annual **Portland International Women's Day** at Portland State University's Smith Memorial Center. This year's celebration, "Embracing Self-Expression," features educational workshops, art exhibits, a health fair, retail vendors, international food, Cunt author Inga Muscio and bluegrass band the Flat Mountain Girls. (10 am-4 pm. 1825 SW Broadway.)

Get lucky during the Fox & Hounds' **Monthly Charity Bingo**. (3:30 pm. 217 SW Second Ave.)

The Egyptian Club gives away a night stay in a king suite at Spirit Mountain Lodge/Casino during its monthly **Texas Hold 'Em Tournament Championship**. (4 pm. 3701 SE Division St.)

Celebrate the movie industry's most glamorous evening during **Oscar Night America at the Hollywood Theatre** featuring free popcorn and soda, a light box dinner and a special gift bag. Honorary co-chairs are Portland animator and Oscar winner Will Vinton and Portland first lady Karin Hansen. Proceeds benefit the Oregon Film and Video Foundation. (4 pm. 4122 NE Sandy Blvd. \$30 general, \$125 VIP from 503-493-1128.)

Snuggle while you celebrate queer cinema at the **Men's Oscar Night and Puppy Pile**. Proceeds benefit the Q-LAND/LoveTribes MenSpirit Scholarship Fund. (4:30-9:30 pm. 503-223-8822, ext. 2. RSVP to www.lovetribes.org/menspirit.)

Get the star treatment during the **Crave Oscars Party** at The Ram in Lake Oswego. Admission includes spa services, sake tastings and a goody bag from Madame Bouffant and other vendors. Wear your pajamas or favorite leisure wear! (5-9 pm. 320 Oswego Pointe Drive. \$25 at the door, \$20 in advance from www.craveportland.com.)



Gay-owned Onda Arte Latina displays silkscreens by Alicia Leal as part of its **Cuban Exuberance** exhibit through Feb. 21.

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