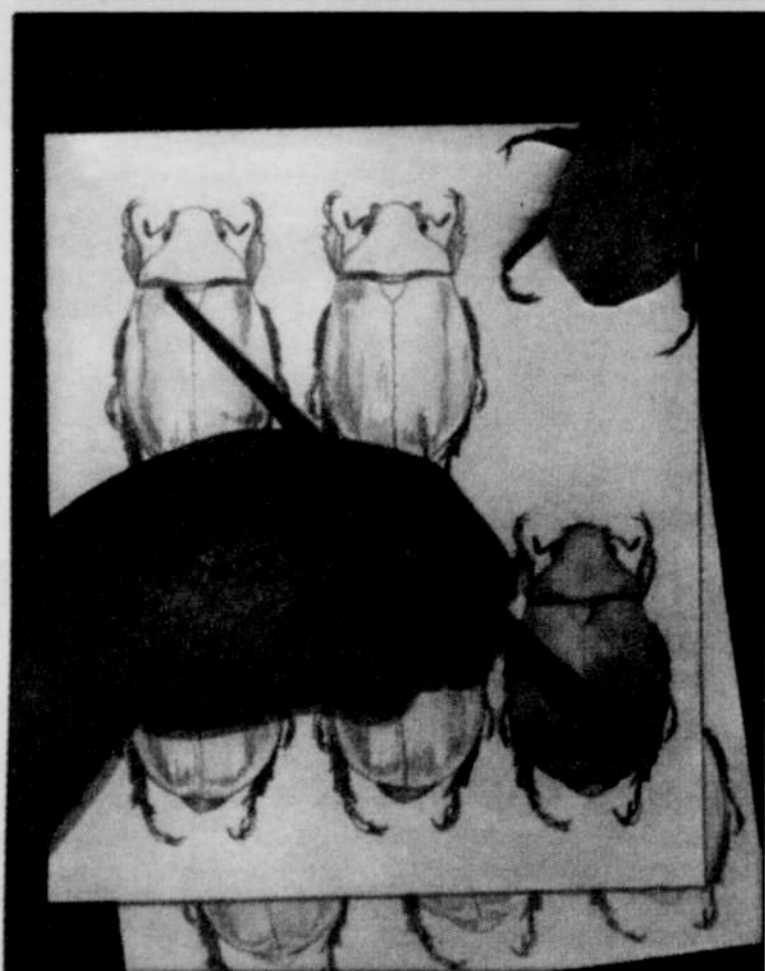




Queering City Hall

Portland celebrates Pride Month with a milestone art exhibit
by Malka Geffen and Julie Sabatier

Portland City Hall is celebrating the queer community with its First Thursday art show in June.

Openly gay Commissioner Sam Adams opened his doors when he came into office to showcase local emerging artists.

This year, he has made the event more community-based to create an even more accessible, less intimidating City Hall for the public. First Thursday in January helped celebrate the 25th anniversary of *El Hispanic News*, February highlighted labor unions, and March was for the African American community.

"I am so excited to be part of Portland's City Hall in celebrating Pride Month," says Adams. "June's First Thursday queer art show is a milestone event; it will be the first LGBTQ open house in City Hall. This is an opportunity not only to celebrate the important artistic contributions from the gay community, but also a way to better connect with your elected officials and one another."

The show includes the work of the Portland Association for Gay and Lesbian Artists, which was co-founded last year by Mar Goman and David Strough when they learned of the City Hall show. "Every other constituency group had an organization," says Strough. "We had to get serious about organizing for this show, but also to get our work out there. It gives art directors and curators something they can handle."

The exhibit also draws from QuArt, a community group founded last year by artist Terra Wilcoxson. The collective, which is now 20 to 25 members large, works locally to foster a sense of community among creative, socially conscious, queer and queer-friendly individuals by showing emerging and established artists, inspiring collaborations, organizing community-building events and encouraging sociopolitical awareness.

In anticipation of this momentous event for Portland's queer art community, *Just Out* introduces you to a handful of the artists participating in the City Hall show.

PORTLAND CITY HALL celebrates Pride Month with an exhibit of queer artists June 1 to 30 at 1220 S.W. Fourth Ave. An opening reception will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. June 1 featuring entertainment from the Portland Gay Men's Chorus, Darleen Salomon-Rodgers (aka Blaque Butterfly), Alela and Kate Man.



Left to right, top to bottom: Artwork by Paul Soriano, Tony Le Tigre, Jerilyn Adams, Jamie Winterhawke, Terra Wilcoxson, Mike Kabler and David Strough will be on display next month at Portland City Hall.