

It's All Fair Game for Jerilyn Adams

For Jerilyn Adams, art is akin to a spiritual experience or "a really good fuck." This should come as no surprise from a woman who has worked in every media from welded steel to sticks, stones and her own body. "Anything is fair game if it can function as art," says Adams.

Though her planet of origin is yet to be determined, Adams grew up in Indiana and earned her bachelor of fine art from Heron School of Art in Indianapolis. She received a master of fine arts degree at New Mexico State University before moving to Portland 10 years ago.

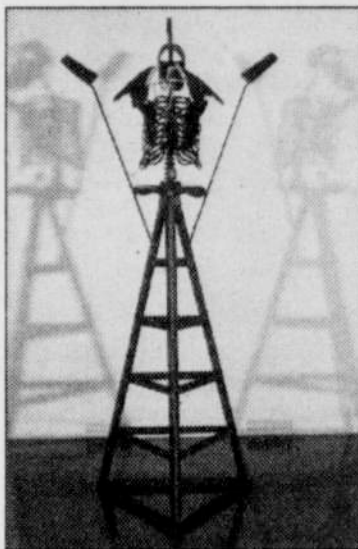
An out lesbian and working artist her entire adult life, Adams has grappled with many important issues in her art. Whether her sculpture or two-dimensional piece touches on queer issues, women's issues or issues of religion vs. spirituality, Adams believes it all boils down to the viewer. "At that moment when the viewer comes in contact with the art, my intent is suspended."

Adams is excited about joining the Portland Association for Gay and Lesbian Artists and showing at City Hall. She plans to hang her piece "Where to Keep Your Constitution" at the First Thursday exhibit. The answer is apparently hidden inside a picket-fence-clad copy of the Patriot Act. She also hopes to show "Jagged Baby," a new piece that includes poetry around the perceptions of being defective and dangerous.

In her artist statement, Adams explains the motives behind her political work. "In these violent times, art is one of the few things that continues to make sense to me. When I feel powerless, I find strength through the creative process."

Art can be heady stuff, but it can also be a thing of beauty to touch the right soul. "My art makes a beautiful, thoughtful gift for a loved one or oneself. Just Out readers will feel blessed when they help support artists and the arts, for these are the signs of a civilized culture!"

Adams welcomes members of the community to make an appointment to visit her studio and see more of her work. Send inquiries to jerilynadams@yahoo.com.



Mike Kabler Reclaims Sacred Images

Mike Kabler has been a QuArt collective member since he moved to Portland from San Francisco last year. His medium of choice is paper collage. "I use 20th century advertising imagery as a means to explore the role of pop culture as a social engineer," he explains.

Several of his collages appear in QuArt's *Miniatures Group Show*, which is on display through May 24 at Cup and Saucer Northeast. "New Wave Killed My Family" is a piece Kabler describes as autobiographical. "It's about me coming of age as a queer teenager and the immense conflict that caused within my family," he says.

Kabler's piece for the upcoming City Hall exhibit will include another autobiographical collage chronicling his difficult

coming-out process. "Collage has historically been used as a tool for social activism," he points out. "I've always used collage work as a means to subvert the sacred images of American culture by transforming those images in a way to reclaim them for people who are on the margins."

A member of QuArt's development committee, Kabler says his involvement with the collective has helped him hone the public relations skills necessary to any successful artist. "QuArt also challenges me to make more art because we show once a month and it's just a great way to socialize with like-minded queer artists," he says.

Kabler's identification with the word "queer" goes beyond his sexuality. "I like the old-school definition of queer from the '50s as being an odd person, a square peg," he says. "My use of the word queer definitely denotes a sort of otherness from the mainstream, and that feeling goes into a lot of my pieces."

When he's not making provocative collage art, Kabler enjoys cooking, gardening and spending time with his partner of seven years. The two were the eighth couple to be married in San Francisco when same-sex marriage was briefly legal there. They also have a Canadian marriage license, which is recognized as valid in all countries where same-sex marriage is legal.

Continued on Page 26

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