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Art and Philanthropy Converge

Cascade AIDS Project's annual Art Auction is Portland's largest auction and showcase for contemporary artwork. Renowned for its prestige and celebrated for festivities, food and entertainment, the 18th anniversary is expected to be a bash.

The doors open to the Portland Ballroom at the Oregon Convention Center, 777 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., at 6 p.m. May 12.

CAP and curator Jennifer Gately of the Portland Art Museum have selected the contemporary artwork for auction. A collection of 275 pieces, the art is featured in mixed media, including glass, ceramic and canvas.

This year's theme is "Chiaroscuro," an Italian word for describing bold contrast between light and dark.

Artwork by Tom Prochaska, Melinda Thorsnes and Patrick Abbey are among those featured. Prochaska—"one of Portland's best," according to *The Oregonian*—is quite accomplished; his résumé reveals an impressive education, several solo exhibitions, teaching experience, participation in benefit fund-raisers, committee service and a lot more. Thorsnes has 30 years of experience and has done fantastic work with oil paint; she is featured at gay-owned Froelick Gallery. Artiste Abbey, a queer man, had an exhibit at PDX Contemporary Art gallery last May.

DJ Barrett Paul, Pendulum Aerial Dance Theatre and Liv Warfield provide the entertainment for the evening. Paul has been on the Portland scene for 13 years DJing events with unique style. Portland-based company Pendulum is a rare group of performers; with a touch of elegance, airborne acrobatics and a passion for the arts, these talented aerialists present a theatrical flair. Warfield, a beautiful and talented jazz and R & B artist, will be performing.

Christopher Israel, executive chef at 23 Hoyt and Saucebox, has designed the menu and is providing dessert for the event.

The auction is expected to draw some of Portland's finest, or at least the best-dressed. This huge event attracts a crowd of tuxedo- and gown-clad showgoers with philanthropic intentions.

Tickets to the auction are \$125 for general

admission, while \$275 will secure a seat at the patron event.

Proceeds support programs and services at CAP. In the previous 17 years combined, the auction produced a total \$3.5 million. This year's fund-raising goal is \$500,000.

For tickets call CAP's event line at 503-223-9255. To purchase a table call 503-223-5907, ext 275.

Cyclists Raise Money to Fight AIDS

For most people, the trip from San Francisco to Los Angeles is a seven-hour drive or an even shorter flight. For many, including 14 people from the Portland area, the trip is much longer; it is a week-long journey full of challenges and physical exertion.

AIDS LifeCycle 6, scheduled for the week of June 5, will draw thousands of riders from around the country and hundreds of volunteers to provide medical, logistic and moral support to those participating in the ride. Riders are faced not only with the daunting challenges associated with a 545-mile bike ride, but they also must raise \$2,500 to compete in the ride. The money raised by LifeCycle supports the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center.

This makes the challenge of raising so much money all the more difficult for people not in the San Francisco or Los Angeles area. "There's a perception that the money doesn't make it up to the Portland area, which makes it really hard for local riders to participate. But that's just wrong. The money gets distributed to research and programs that help everyone," said Sister Mona-Little More of the Portland Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence.

After watching a series on the Logo network profiling LifeCycle 4, Sisters Mona and Tasha Salad decided to volunteer as support staff for the ride. "Our work as sisters made us perfect for this."

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence is a nationwide group of people who dress as stylized nuns in elaborate makeup while conducting fund-raising work, community outreach and safe-sex education. The Portland Sisters celebrate their second anniversary this year. "Working in face helps keep people's spirits up. This is a difficult challenge for riders."



Multnomah County Chairman Ted Wheeler (from left), Brian Wilson, County Commissioner Maria Rojo de Steffey and J. Daniel Steffey took in art and culture at CAP's art auction last year.

TEAM PHOTOGENIC