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in there that are kind of fun," Carrigan says. "It has a gay theme. It's not an in-your-face gay theme. If you start to look at it, you realize that there's gay plots in it that you can kind of read."

Carrigan's artistic career has been sporadic since he was diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in 1987. "Thanks to the medicines and all the help I got from Project Quest and stuff, I feel like I got a second chance and I do get to do it all over again and I kind of relish life itself," he says. "I want to put something that I did back into life in that way, and art is my way of doing it."

Carrigan says he doesn't show his work often, although he was just featured in the Alberta Art Hop and has a solo show premiering next month at the Tea Zone. His partner, Tabor Porter, also has art in the City Hall exhibit.



Jennifer Billig is returning to her home state of Arkansas this fall to be closer to family.

Another piece to look out for is mixed-media artist Mar Goman's. "I make art out of everything that doesn't move," the 59-year-old says. For this particular piece, Goman cut painter's linen stained with wax into the shape of a dress and sewed on shell buttons of varying hues from very dark at the center to soft, pearly shades as they fan out from the center of the piece. Also sewn to the dress are deli-


cate shell beads that spell out the words "Radiating the pain."

"Everyone experiences pain in their lives," Goman explains. "It's sort of a part of the human condition, but I think gays and lesbians, particularly those growing up in my generation, and still, I mean it's not over yet, they have a lot of pain... I mean, figuring out your sexuality and figuring out

what to do with it in this culture and, at my age, realizing that as you and your partner retire, you don't have any fucking rights! That pain keeps coming back in different ways."

Goman says she and her partner are eager to file for a domestic partnership under the new Oregon Family Fairness Act. She sees the City Hall art show as an important element in the movement

toward full equality.

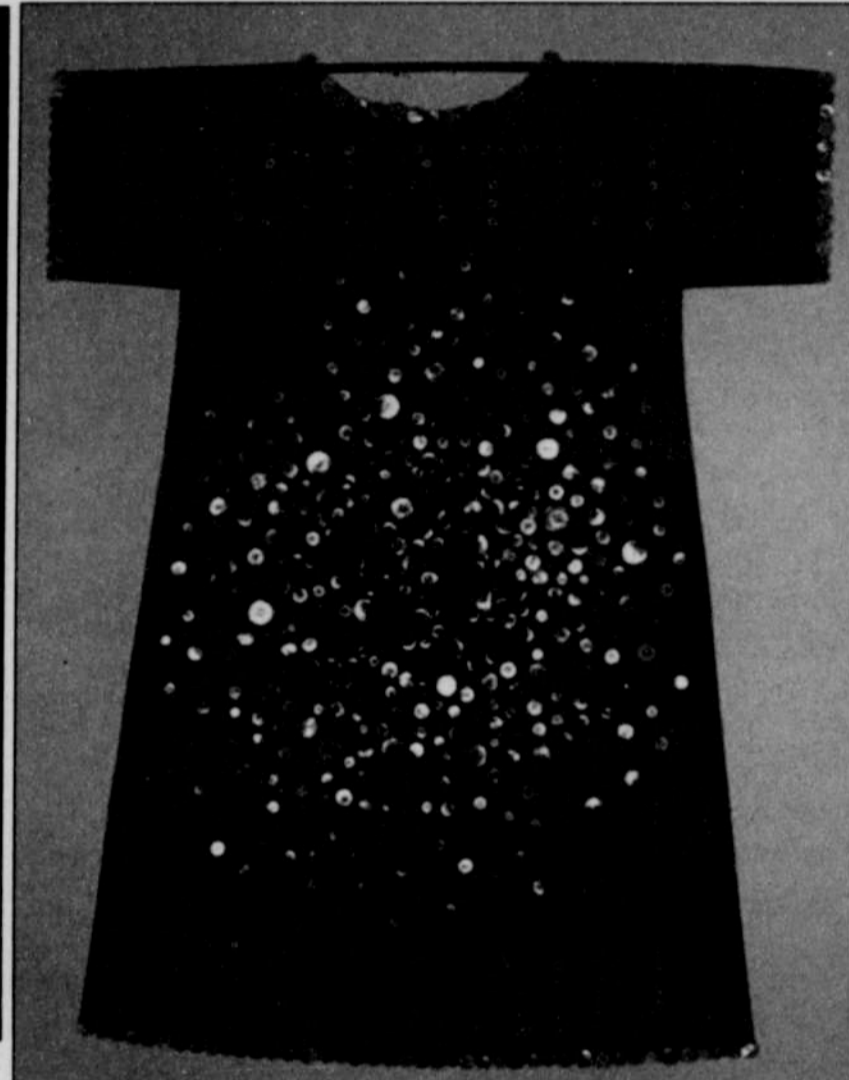
"Last year was the first time this show happened, and they sort of decided that June would be queer month because it's Gay Pride and everything. So, I'm assuming and hoping that it will happen every year," she smiles. 

PORTLAND CITY HALL celebrates Pride Month with an exhibit of queer artists June 7 to 30 at 1220 S.W. Fourth Ave. An opening reception will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. June 7.

JULIE SABATIER is a Portland freelance writer and radio producer.



The City Hall exhibit will include Jennifer Billig's woodcut prints of agriculturally invasive weeds.



Mixed-media artist Mar Goman feels your pain.

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
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