

SERENA DAVIDSON

Time Is of the Essence

Performance artists descend upon Portland for annual creative orgy

by Tony LeTigre



The Time-Based Art Festival pushes the boundaries of what constitutes a creative medium.

Just as sweltering summer begins its slow fade into colorful fall, the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA) brings us, for the fifth year in a row, the Time-Based Art Festival. Billed as the only festival of its kind in North America, TBA brings together local, national and international artists to drape a garland of conceptual creative anarchy all over Portland and to explore the intersection of spatial and temporal art.

Through Sept. 16, TBA will push the boundaries of what constitutes a creative medium and challenge us to look toward the future and the ways in which art may help lead us there. The festival has become perhaps the biggest and most talked- and written-about creative happening in Portland, a city that, in the words of artistic director Mark Russell, is "already inventing how to exist in the future."

People turn out en masse; it's the sort of event that draws the more strait-laced factions of the art establishment together with the fringe elements: the beautiful freaks, outsider artists and boundary-pushers who keep the cutting edge whetted sharp. TBA bears the imprint of the global creative community (it was modeled on similar international festivals such as Edinburgh in Scotland and the Adelaide Fringe in Australia) and shines with a looking-toward-the-future optimism, reminding us that random acts of beauty, creativity, movement, spontaneous generation and spiritual connection can light the way forward as they have, time and again, in the past.

Time-based art is a relatively new phenomenon—at least the term is, even if some of its

components stretch back for decades or even (in the case of performance art) for centuries. According to the visual arts glossary of the online learning center Te Kete Ipurangi, time-based art is defined as "artworks that are sequenced through time, that change as we view them and that may be ephemeral." As such, it is a catch-all term for the art of the Internet Age, bridging the gap between traditional fine art and digital arts and imaging. Thus it typically includes film, video, audio, performance, installation and kinetic sculpture. To this list, TBA 2007 adds more surprising permutations such as monofilament, old records, flowers, body paint and smoke machines.

Among the artists from distant shores making their way to our creative mecca to surprise and inspire us with their vision are three especially deserving of the love and interest of the community served by *Just Out*. The fact that some of them tend to steer clear of labels, or prefer not to define themselves entirely on the basis of their sexuality, is one additional way in which these artists reflect the infinite possibilities, and ever-broadening range of identity options, of the time in which we live. 

The Portland Institute for Contemporary Art presents the fifth annual TIME-BASED ART FESTIVAL through Sept. 16 at various venues. For a complete schedule visit www.pica.org.

TONY LETIGRE is 12 feet tall, bulletproof and able to leap tall buildings at a single bound. Shower him with electronic love at anthonyletigre@gmail.com.



All You Need Is
One Good
Frame



BRIAN MARKI FINE ART & FRAMING
2236 NE BROADWAY 503-249-5659
Mon-Sat 10 to 6 • www.brianmarki.com



JEWEL A. ROBINSON, ABR
REAL ESTATE BROKER
B'zillion Dollar Producer

Cell 503.708.9508
Fax 503.520.2422
jewelrocks@gmail.com

View all Portland area listings at
www.jewelarobinson.com



Located in the heart
of Sellwood

THE
DOG PARK

1717 SE Umatilla • (503) 230-1109

Day Care &
Boarding

25% OFF
EXCLUDES HOLIDAYS & PACKAGES
EXPIRES 10/31/07



Mon-Fri 7AM-6PM • Sat 9AM-5PM