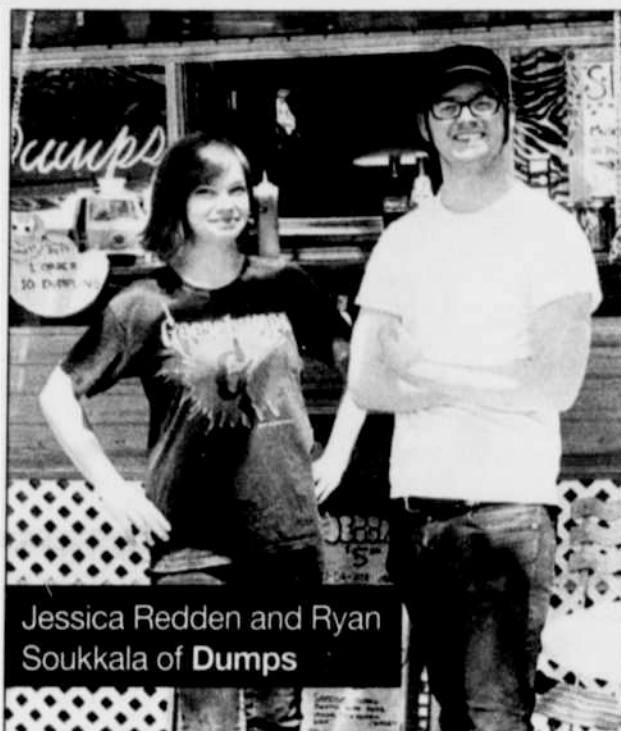




Jessica Redden and Ryan Soukkala of Dumps

"I literally just took a risk," she says. "No investment, no business plan. I just brought things from my home, yard sales and estate sales, and created the interior."

The interior is a very personal, natural space, which Baker changes seasonally, and which houses both her work and that of emerging artisans from all over the world. The shop also doubles as Baker's work studio.

"I think people get really excited to see people at work and making their craft," explains Baker, who also plays percussion in the band Lavender Mirror with partner Kerby Ferris, also of the band Lovers. "My vision for the store has always been to create a space that has simple, beautiful, functional art objects that are resident of the natural world and also created with intention."

Baker's background in landscape horticulture influenced her concept for Sword + Fern. Her newer apothecary section houses alternative wellness products, and she also makes her own lip balm and salves from regional herbs.

Despite receiving support and notoriety regionally as well as beyond, Baker's hope is, as she puts it, to follow the path that's been laid for her.

"I think it's really important to keep design really simple and as sustainable as possible," Baker reiterates. "That's one thing I don't ever want to change—and that I want to always be improving on."

811 E. Burnside #114; noon-5 p.m. Tues.-Sat.; 503-683-FERN or swordandfern.com.

Put a Little Love in Your Cart

Sticking out in Portland's ocean of food carts is a challenge for conspiring street restaurateurs. But for **Dumps**—a pierogi cart located in the new pod between 34th and 35th Avenue on SE Belmont—originality hasn't been much of a problem.

Co-owned by Jessica Redden and Ryan Soukkala, Dumps first opened downtown, serving traditional pierogies with a decidedly American melting-pot twist. In March, the pair relocated to the bustling Belmont district.

"We thought it could be a hit here, because we've never seen it anywhere else," Redden says of Dumps' confections. "Some people are alienated by the name, for sure, but they seem to like the food."

Featuring a rotating menu of meat, veggie and vegan pierogies, Dumps' quality street fare without pretension has built a formidable following. The cart's aesthetic alone is cause for attention, with purple paint, zebra-striped accents, Pac-Man video gaming while you wait and pink flamingo yard art. Redden describes the look as a "throwback to growing up in the Redneck Riviera in Florida."

"We serve simple food," she says. "We want it to be unique and delicious, inexpensive and accessible." Soukkala adds, "Something a little less serious, with people who have a sense of humor, who want to make good food but are into the kitschiness of [the cart scene]."

Staples include the samosa—a Polish-Indian fusion dumpling stuffed with curry potato, onion and peas, served with either yogurt sauce or mango-pear chutney—and the U-Da-Ho!—a cheddar-garlic mashed potato dumpling served with sour cream, cilantro and curry powder.

Patrons can also watch VHS movies while they wait, and those who bring in a tape to add to Redden and Soukkala's collection receive \$1 off their order. After all, life inside a food cart begs for entertainment sometimes.

"We spend way too much time in that little box," Soukkala says.

Located between 34th and 35th on SE Belmont; noon-10 p.m. Tues.-Thurs., noon-2:30 a.m. Fri.-Sat., 1-9 p.m. Sun.; dumpspdx.com. Call ahead, 503-875-4512, for order pickup.

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