

BY WAYNE BUND

The crux of my 2011 top visual art picks springs from a quote from Ryan Trecartin's 2006 video "(Tommy Chat Just Emailed Me.):" "If my ideal Landscape Had a Word for Honestly It Would Live Online With You." While Portland has a bustling scene of queer artists, queer-themed galleries, queer curators, and queer art-goers, the crème de la crème of Stumptown's visual culture live online. From John Waters-inspired posters branding queer dance nights and John Waters-inspired videos on YouTube to countless followers on Tumblr, digital culture has dominated Portland's art scene.

Pick #1: More Dicks and More Femmes

Everything is digital now, and everything is new again. At least that's the way **tumblr.com** makes me feel. With every scroll through my dashboard, it's like I'm falling in love again for the first time. Even more than Facebook, Instagram or Flickr, Tumblr allows queers to shuffle, conglomerate and synthesize their own visual style and build community around daily curatorial choices. Whether it's blatant Not Safe For Work seminal phallus-ness or citing esoteric femme-ness, the endless array of fresh images never ceases to amaze.

The wonder of Tumblr is that it is both local and national at once. Some of my favorite local

pages include Wyatt Riot's **tenderheart**, Brad Roberge's **volcanobird**, Jonny Shultz's eponymous **jonnyshultz**, as well as national pages such as **bearsimjealousof**, **shamama**, **smiller555**, **buckangel** and **fuckyeahfemmes**.

Pick #2: Girlfriends

Portland was graced by lesbian royalty back in January with a visit from **Catherine Opie**. Not only did the Portland Art Museum showcase a sampling of her exhibit **Girlfriends**, but Opie descended from the heavens to give us two hours of her time in lecture form. A highlight of *Girlfriends* was the durational presence of Opie's subjects, such as in "Idexa," who appears in portraits from 1998 and 2008. The wear and tear and transition of Idexa transcends beyond the frame.

Pick #3 and #4: Video Savants

YouTube and Vimeo have been around for a while, so it's no surprise that the third pick centers on two artists who have turned to video to execute their sincere and twisted views of the world: **Holcombe Waller** and **Anthony Hudson**. Waller's talent is best described as clown-meets-performance artist-meets-folk singer-meets-multitasking genius. With the release and rerelease of his album *Into the Dark Unknown*, Waller ac-



Catherine Opie's "Kate" (2007)

companied his inspiring melodies with the creation of three music videos: "Bored of Memory," "Hardliners" and "Qu'Appelle Valley, Saskatchewan." Waller is deft at capitalizing simple sincerity, cinematic magic and artistic vision.

Hudson made his breakout moment in 2010 by creating an Oregon Public Health public service announcement about a zombie outbreak, and there's been no looking back since. As the unsung star of the recent *Shorty Shorts Queer Short Film Festival*, Hudson dominated the night with his "The Drag Mansion Gets a Job," "The Real Drag Mani-son" and "The Awesomazing Show: Episode 1 - Tagging (Pilot)." I predict Hudson will be our generation's John Waters, if not the next Tom Six.

Pick #5: Curate/Appropriate

As the guiding hand behind monthly dance party MRS. at Mississippi Studios, **Ally Picard** of **Bloodhound Photography** has designed entire nights with themes such as "Beyond Thunderdome," "Space Odyssey," "Cry Baby Divine," and "Executive Realness." This process has included picking a local queer and turning them into a burning effigy of pop culture. Picard superbly mines the movies that form the cultural subconscious of the twenty- and thirtysomethings of today and revisioning them into a club culture that allows us to imagine what is possible, what might be possible, and what was once possible.

Upcoming Picks for 2012

• **Cock Gallery**, a space run by Paul Soriano with the mission of showcasing "provocative, intelligent works that otherwise might not be shown due to content or commercial value," will be an interesting addition to the Everett Street Lofts ecology.

• The Tacoma Art Museum gets a little queer with the inclusion of Portland's own **TJ Norris** and lesbian feminist performance artist **Wynne Greenwood** (Tracey and the Plastics) in the 10th Northwest Biennial opening in January. Also, *HIDE/SEEK* will open at TAM in March. ☐

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