

# Time Based Art Festival

by Alley Hector

FOUNDED IN 1995 BY KRISTY EDMUNDS, PICA (PORTLAND INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART) IS THE SEAT OF PORTLAND'S AVANT-GARDE. VERY PORTLAND AND VERY QUEER, THE ARTS ORG STARTED ITS TWO WEEK LONG **TIME BASED ART FESTIVAL** 10 YEARS AGO BASED ON WORLD-RENOWNED CULTURE HAPPENINGS SUCH AS THOSE IN EDINBURGH AND ADELAIDE. SINCE THEN IT HAS GROWN INTO A PRESTIGIOUS FESTIVAL IN ITS OWN RIGHT AND A LOCAL CULTURAL CORNERSTONE WITH WORK THAT IS URGENT, CULTURALLY AND POLITICALLY TIMELY, AND EVOKES RESPONSE AND PARTICIPATION.

A synthesis of international talent with a uniquely Portland flavor, first-time TBA curator Angela Mattox wanted this year's projects to be even more interdisciplinary than usual. "[This year's work] often moves between theatre, video, movement, and music in a single piece. It is a reflection of current artist practices and of our own desire to have audiences move fluidly between these experiences," Mattox says.

She values the casualness that Portland brings to the art world making it accessible to our wide and weird citizens. "We all end up sharing beers at the end of the night," she says, "The lack of divisions between artist and curator and audience, that audiences can meet a performer in the beer garden and ask them a question [makes TBA a very Portland event.]"

Sometimes intensely personal, often epically political, these artists work closely with LGBT themes. Here are some of the highlights.

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Claudia Meza

**PICA's** AVANT-GARDE

