



Mural by David Drenth

ART, from page 4

His pen drawings, on the other hand, are quite explicit.

B. Pat's actual name is Vernon Bernard Patrick, and he made headlines in 2009 when he lured a homeless woman to a Portland motel room where he brutally beat her.

Tierney first visited him to discuss showing his art when he was at the Justice Center in downtown Portland.

He had sent her a letter that said: "I am 6', 4" and 300 lbs.; I am crammed into this little 7 x 5 foot cell. It's awful, hideously synchronized with descended anguish and chaos. I would be interested in giving you some works for show."

She remembers he was "a sight to behold."

"He was this huge black guy wearing pink pajamas," she said. "We had a very interesting afternoon in which he told me he had been brought up illiterate, and only in jail had he learned to read. And he had become quite the intellectual in his own personal way. This guy read Schopenhauer and Nietzsche. He was fascinated by time."

B. Pat served his sentence, and after his release, Tierney's contact with him ended. Neither Tierney nor Slader were able to determine his whereabouts to notify him of the show until recently, when he contacted Slader from Washington County Jail. He was arrested on charges of stalking, parole violation and first-degree sex abuse charges following two separate arrests in May.

Through a friend of B. Pat's, Slader was able to secure a great deal more of his artwork to feature in his show.

"Some of these images are among the most powerful art I have ever seen," he said.

"In no way is my admiration for his art an admiration for any other part of him," Slader said. "But even in the soul of someone that has harmed others, there is this inherent urge to create that says, you're a human being."

Gallery 114 is a cooperative, owned and operated by 11 artists who all pay dues and take turns designing their own exhibits.

This structure, free of commercial pressures, allows them to show strong, original exciting art that isn't necessarily marketable, Slader said.

Slader's style of abstract portraiture began with close-ups of men. He drew on his former clients who were abused by Catholic priests for inspiration. He said many of their siblings didn't survive the



PHOTO BY EMILY GREEN

David Slader will showcase his collection of abstract female nudes during his benefit auction and showing at Gallery 114 in July.

abuse, and killed themselves, "either the fast way or the slow way." But his clients were tough and tenacious survivors whom he admired, he said.

The collection of abstract female nudes that he'll showcase in July was almost entirely painted after the November election.

"The traditional female figure in Western art is a passive figure," he said. He wanted his women to be in control, and he said it was his intention to use eroticism as power.

"If you can have full frontal nudity, and still be self-assured, that's a real strong statement," he said.

He said while he knew of more than a dozen talented local artists he could feature alongside his work, he wanted his show to have meaning.

"Few Oregon towns have as many citizens as the 14,000 men and women locked up in our prisons," Slader said. "Once those doors

close, only family and a small population of state employees remain conscious of their existence."

Drenth said he hopes gallery visitors will understand that there are two sides to his work, which uses the juxtaposition of time and bondage against bright carnival colors.

"There is a lot of pain there, but there is a bright side to it, too," he said.

"People had no idea how talented some of these guys that are locked behind bars," Tierney said. "People only know them for the bad things they've done,

but in fact they are human beings, and they are oftentimes very extremely talented and are very deep and profound in their take on life - they have definitely seen the dark side."

DAVID SLADER

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IF YOU GO

Gallery 114
1100 NW Glisan St., Portland

July 5
6-8 p.m.

Benefit Auction

David Slader will donate 20 percent of any sales of his works this evening to the Oregon Justice Resource Center, which promotes criminal justice reform, provides services to incarcerated women and operates the Oregon Innocence Project, which seeks to assist people who have been wrongfully convicted.

July 6
First Thursday
3-9 p.m.

Human Being

On display during regular hours, noon to 6 p.m. Thursday through Sunday, from July 7 through 28.