

# WHAT'S happening

If you're not heading to Veneta – or farther out of town – Friday night, don't miss the Lane Arts Council **First Friday Art Walk**, led this month by OFAM's Ginevra Ralph. The walk begins at the Eugene Public Library at 5:30 pm with "Music and Memory," featuring flute and classical guitar music by Alan McCullough and Peter Thomas and *Embroidered Memories* by Justine Merritt. The walk continues to Circle of Hands for work by Marilyn Kent (pictured left) and then to New Odyssey, where work by Dan Hitchcock is on display. Stop #4,

Opus6ix, shows work by Anne Tiegen, and Fenario Gallery rounds out the walk with an opening reception for Mark Henson. Openings are also happening at many other downtown galleries, and you can check out other local art for sale at ArtFest, along the Walk. After the Walk, you might head over to **Mercado Latino**, which winds down its summer run this week. See Friday Calendar.



There are some things even we couldn't make up, and one of them is **Thor**. Thor is a former Mr. America and Mr. Canada turned Rock Warrior. He's been doing his thing since 1976, and you can experience the many years of Thor through his recently released DVD, *An-Thor-Logy*. Or you can just go to John Henry's and watch him bend a steel bar with his teeth. The music's nothing to write home about; sort of Alice Cooper-ish '80s rock, with Thor's talky, toneless voice buried under shouted backing vocals, endlessly crashing cymbals and wailing guitars. But the shows! The shows are rock theater. "Each night the show will be tailored to the specific parameters of the venues the tour is hitting," says the press release, adding, "In Thor's own words, 'I will give them a show they will never forget! I will give them rock 'n' roll and a whole lot more!'" There you have it: Thor's own promise. Don't you want to see him crush bricks against his chest? Sure you do. See Thursday, Sept. 1 Calendar.



TO-GA! TO-GA! Oh, er, sorry. We got carried away. It's just that the World's Largest Toga Party (as documented by the Guinness Book of World Records) is happening this weekend, and we think that's just great. It's part of the **3rd Annual Animal House Celebration** down in Cottage Grove, where you can partake in a parade, an *Animal House* look-alike contest and the giant toga party. The schedule of events begins with "Wake up late, because you visited the local road houses" and continues through the aforementioned events, ending with a evening of music from the New Blues Brothers and Johnny Limbo and the Lugnuts. See Saturday Calendar.

If you had your heart set on seeing **Michael Franti** (right) at the shut-down Shakedown Fest, you've still got a chance to see him heading up this weekend's amazing line-up (also starring **Blackalicious**, **Hot Buttered Rum String Band**, **MOFRO** and **Marcus Eaton**) at Secret House Vineyards. Since the very beginning of his career, Franti's priority has been to stay true to himself and his music. He abandoned a long-standing relationship with a former record label when the bigwigs started trying to tell him what to write and how his music should sound. And his band before Spearhead, The Disposable Heroes of Hiphoprisy, disbanded over similar ideological differences. But since 1994, Spearhead and Franti have been pumping out their politically-charged, reggae-based, pop-influenced jams – or, as Franti calls it, "conscious, funky, human music." See Friday Calendar.

Friday night isn't the only time to catch local art this weekend. On Saturday and Sunday, artists' studios throughout Lane, Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties will be open to the public as part of **Oregon Crafted's Open Studio Weekend**. Participating artists and galleries are profiled in the *Oregon Crafted Guidebook*, which art aficionados must purchase in order to find their way around the self-guided tour. Many Eugene artists and galleries are represented, including Kiki Metzler, Rebecca LaMothe, Robert Canaga and Stephen White, but the tour encompasses more than just Eugene. For more details, check [www.oregoncrafted.org](http://www.oregoncrafted.org) See Saturday Calendar.

