

Oregon Fiber Artists

Art of the Quilt
Fiber Art Quilts by Oregon Fiber Artists

Group Exhibition
September 1-30, 2007

Reception for the Artists
First Friday at 5:30 p.m.

Eugene Celebration and First Friday
Friday, September 7, 2007, 5:00 p.m.

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ACCORDIONS ANONYMOUS
PERFORMING AT
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Oregon Crafted

Getting to Know You[r]

Friendly neighborhood street artists at the Celebration ♦ BY SARA BRICKNER

Once a year, all of Eugene comes together in an orgy of individualism to celebrate this little hub of nonconformist free spirits. In an otherwise-streamlined world of interchangeable parts, it's refreshing to live in a place that celebrates what others might consider oddities: a women's roller derby league, a tween ukulele prodigy (her name is Mary Ferris), holistic hula-hooping, belly *and* fire dancing, plus an assembly of costumed accordionists. The beauty of Eugene Celebration is that, for one weekend, it all comes together in a righteous display of organic nonconformism. And of all the acts scheduled for EC, it's the eclecticism of our street performers that paints the truest portrait of Eugene.

In typical Eugenian fashion, **DRAGON TRIBE**, a local group of fire dancers, started their EC performance career as renegade celebration crashers. Every year, Dragon Tribe would perform unsanctioned in front of the Jacobs Gallery. When EC management found out, they stopped the nearly completed show, then asked for contact information so the Dragon Tribe might perform legally the following year. Who knew that establishment party-pooping (at least, here in hippie-Pleasantville) has more to do with liability lawsuits and less to do with ruining our fun?

This year, Dragon Tribe performs legally for the third time, and cofounder Ananda Rubio is stoked. Expect to see some serious burning (that's slang for playing with flaming objects in a visually appealing way, for all you shut-ins and pyrophobics), and sticks laced with fireworks, or "sparkle," that make the tips look like — you guessed it — sparklers.

"We do a few things that other fire dancers don't do," Rubio says. "One of our trademark things is called a vortex. It's basically a long jump rope that's on fire. We don't jump through it; we just make it do big gigantic circles."

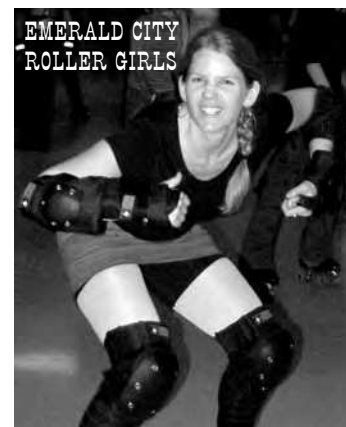
ACCORDIONS ANONYMOUS, a ten-person accordion band, is another fixture. If the moniker seems a bit odd — how can an addiction to any instrument be bad? — it's because until recently, playing the accordion was about as cool as wearing a fanny pack. Tara K., an Accordions Anonymous addict, played it as a child, but later put it down in favor of the guitar. And then, 10 years ago, she rediscovered the bellowing beauties. Love 'em or hate 'em, Tara K. knows few people have lukewarm feelings about the squeezebox.

"There's a lot of dislike in our culture against accordions," Tara K. says. "People are either happy when an accordion shows up or they run away." Expect an eclectic mix of music, from polkas to Beatles covers.

When you see green ladies zipping about on roller skates this weekend, they're probably **EMERALD CITY ROLLER GIRLS**. The league just became official in February — they'll be competing for the first time Oct. 13, at the Regional Sports Center in Springfield — and will be at EC showcasing the ins and outs of women's flat track roller derby. Go check them out, but be warned: This isn't the same roller derby you watched on TV at 2 a.m. It's a competitive, regulated sport, only with more fashionable uniforms.

If you frequent World Café or Saturday Market (and if you're reading this, you probably do), you've likely seen **AMERICANISTAN** and **LUMINESSAH** perform. Middle Eastern music and American tribal bellydance co-exist peacefully in this microcosmic representation of what the world might be like without the horror of voting machines and the entire sandbar (er, state) of Florida. This accomplished group of belly dancers will be accompanied by studious musicians with their most portable instruments: the zurna (basically the oboe of the Arab world), Mediterranean bagpipes, the harmonium and an array of drums. And the belly dancing, well ... depending on your sexual preference, you're either hypnotized by the seductive power of undulating bodies in bikini tops, or you're wondering how you, too, can learn to shake it like that.

Check out the EC schedule for a list of when and where these performers will appear. ♦



EMERALD CITY
ROLLER GIRLS

GEORGE JONES



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