



DAN WITZ WILL INSTALL 15 TO 20 OF HIS SMALL WORKS, SUCH AS THIS ONE IN DETROIT, ON EUGENE WALLS.

and Gallery at 411 West Fourth Avenue shows a huge battle between tigers and a dragon in a sea of red. It also has the distinction of being the first to be vandalized by another tagger. Hua completed his work last month. Within days it was defaced, or perhaps complemented, by a late-night spray painter who wrote on the mural; it's since been repaired.

The list of commissioned artists also includes local muralist **ILA ROSE**. Having seen an announcement of the project, she demanded from the Eugene Walls steering committee to know why local artists weren't included. "I was kind of disappointed in the lack of local involvement," she says. "It would be a really good opportunity for us to share our work with the visiting artists."

A bit to her surprise, Rose — whose work has more a New Age than a guerilla esthetic — was invited to create her own mural for the project. Rose has done just one previous mural, on Blair Boulevard between Fifth and Sixth Avenues. For the Eugene Walls project, she proposes a large image of a woman with medicinal plants — a "healer," she says — along with owl and snake imagery.

Then came a bump. The whole surface of the 2,300-square-foot wall she was initially assigned to paint was corrugated steel, a difficult surface on which to work for a two-dimensional image. "I'm just going to approach it as if it were a flat wall and hope it works out," she said. "I said, 'You're giving me a really challenging wall.' They said, 'Good luck.'"

Late Tuesday, though, the project decided to give her a different — and flatter — wall to paint on, also in the Whiteaker neighborhood.

Eugene Walls will cost the city about \$56,000, the city says, with most of the money going for transportation and supplies for the artists; funds will come from the Cultural Services Division and the city parking fund.

Another \$20,000 has been raised in donations from

In his four decades of work as a street artist — Dan Witz turns 60 this fall — he has encountered police numerous times but has never been arrested. That's in part because he realized early on it was safer to get right in and right out. It's also because he's an older white guy and benefits, as he notes, from profiling.

businesses supplying wall space as blank canvases and from other donors. Securing enough walls hasn't been easy, as the city requires a five-year commitment from the building owner to maintain the art. That caused one landlord who had initially agreed to a mural to drop out of the project.

It also shines the harsh light of irony on a project trying to institutionalize the raw energy of urban street art on

the walls of a quiet Northwestern town. Marquez revels in the contradiction. "We're convincing these artists to come here and sign our five-page legal documents!" he says.

There are also wilder possibilities. Some of the artists involved with the Oregon International Sculpture Symposium partied pretty hard while they were here. Asked a few years ago about his experience in Eugene, sculptor John Chamberlain laughed that he couldn't remember. "I drank my share and your share and a few other people's shares that summer," he said.

Police were called out one night when Chamberlain, a friend of Andy Warhol, showed a pornographic film he'd made as his formal artist presentation at City Hall. (The cops declined to stop the show.)

Marquez just smiles at the possibilities for turning a pack of urban street artists loose on the streets of Eugene. "There is a little bit of irony here," he says.

Here are some events connected to Eugene Walls:

Eugene Walls kicks off informally on Sunday, July 30, with Sunday Streets, the city's occasional celebration of public space, when downtown streets will be closed off to traffic from noon to 4 pm.

An artist reception, with the international and local artists from the mural project, will run from 6:30 to 8:30 pm Wednesday, Aug. 2, at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art on the UO campus.

Finally, Lane Arts Council's First Friday ArtWalk will feature a walking tour of murals starting at 5:30 pm Friday, Aug. 4. Guided by Paul Godin of the mural project, the tour begins at the corner of West Broadway and Charnelton Street and will feature short talks by participating artists.

The intersection of West Broadway and Charnelton Street will be closed that evening for two concerts. Tony Glausi and band will play from 6 to 7:30 pm, and Portland-based Chanti Darling will play from 8 to 10 pm. ■