

Artist Works in World of Decay



Local artist Rio Wrenn works in rust and natural dyes.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL RUBENSTEIN

Gallery 500 reopens with 'Saturation'

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A fascination with rusting, rotting and the natural dying process is helping a local artist create works that reflect interest in both the natural and industrial world's cycle of decay.

"I find beauty in natural processes" says Rio Wrenn, a local fiber artist, dance and yoga devotee and amateur chemist.

When delving into the natural, Wrenn rots fruit, mixes chemicals and rusts iron and silk to create stains as pigments to dye various objects.

Her show, "Saturation," appears this month at the newly renovated Gallery 500, located at 420 S.W.

Washington, Suite 500.

Justin Oswald, curative director of the gallery, supports underexposed artists from the northwest and beyond.

"I show a lot of emerging artists here. I've shown the underdog that another gallery wouldn't even think of showing," Oswald said.

Besides her interests in the art and life processes, Wrenn has studied Indian culture and discovered similarities between temple hangings, called Kalamkari, and the rusting process.

A reception with the artist is planned from 6 to 11 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 4 at the gallery. For more information, call 503-223-3951 or visit www.gallery500.org.

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