

# FOCUS



## 'Altered Reality' at Tribe of the Winds

Artist Annette Gurdjian's works will be featured at Tribe of the Winds Gallery, 2217 N.E. Alberta St., throughout the month of May in an exhibit called "Altered Reality."

Gurdjian was born in 1950 in Providence, R.I. to Armenian immigrant parents. She was given a Yashica twin lens reflex camera in 1970 and started photographing. As the daughter of Armenian parents, her work has portrayed the deeply rooted reaction to the Ar-

menian Genocide and the testy waters of psychological identity.

In 1992, Gurdjian was awarded "Best of Show" by renowned Portland art dealer William Jamison at the Willamette Valley Juried Exhibition. She won Oregon Arts Commission Fellowships in 1992 and 2000.

A reception for the artist will be held at Tribe of the Winds on Thursday, April 28 from 6 to 9 p.m.



"Altered Reality" is the theme of works by Annette Gurdjian at Alberta Street's Tribe of the Winds Gallery.



"Godfather of Soul" James Brown performs March 4 during a Java Jazz Festival concert in Jakarta, Indonesia. (AP photo)

## Hometown Honors 'Godfather of Soul'

(AP)—To honor the man the Georgia mayor calls "the most famous person to come out of Augusta," the city will unveil a life-size bronze statue of entertainer James Brown on May 6.

The statue will stand in front of Augusta Common on Broad Street, with the unveiling coming three days after the "Godfather of Soul" celebrates his 72nd birthday.

"There is absolutely no question

that James Brown is an icon in entertainment," Mayor Bob Young said. "There's no doubt that he's the most famous person to come out of Augusta. He's an icon. This is a way for us to share that with visitors to Augusta, to give them a James Brown experience."

Brown is scheduled to attend the dedication along with his former road manager, the Rev. Al Sharpton.

## Jazz Week Celebrated

On Monday May 2, the Leroy Vinnegar Jazz Institute celebrates the release of a commemorative poster of "A Great Day in Portland" at McMenamins Kennedy School on 5736 N.E. 33rd Ave.

The free event starts at 5 p.m. and is part of the Institute's annual Leroy Vinnegar Jazz Week, featuring performances by 2004 Downbeat Student Award winner Grant Richards, The Mel Brown Trio, and the PSU Jazz Ensemble.

Inspired by the famous 1958 portrait "A Great Day in Harlem," "A Great Day in Portland" was photographed by noted Portland photographer Owen Carey.

Leroy Vinnegar Jazz Week starts on Sunday, May 1 and will honor the legacy and musical contribution of its namesake through the presentation of performances, workshops and community events at the Leroy Vinnegar Jazz Institute in the Department of Music at Portland State University.

## Simmons Returning to Def Jam

Says a lot of great records to come

(AP) - Russell Simmons is jamming again. The hip-hop mogul is returning to Def Jam, the label he created two decades ago. Simmons said he will head the Russell Simmons Music Group, a joint label with Island Def Jam Music Group.

Simmons sold Def Jam for \$100 million in 1999 but hasn't strayed far from the business. Over the years, he's expanded Def Jam into television (HBO's "Def Comedy Jam"), Broadway ("Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry") and several clothing lines.

After his contract with Def Jam expired several months ago, it was unknown whether Simmons would return to producing music or continue with his myriad of entrepreneurial activities. His first album will be a new disc from his brother,



Russell Simmons

the Rev. Run, a founding member of Run-DMC.

"There are a lot of great records (to be made) out there - like the Run record," Simmons said. "Nobody would make that record. Nobody would know to make that record. ... I like the idea of doing something different."

Simmons, 47, is planning further

expansions from Def Jam. He says MTV has greenlit a reality show, "Run's House," that will chronicle the life of his brother, now an evangelical preacher, and his five children.

"It's the first functional family on television. It's like Bill Cosby on steroids. They live next door to me and Kimora, and we're heathens!" said Simmons, referring to his wife, Kimora Lee.

Island Def Jam, which is under the Universal Media Group umbrella, is now run by chairman Antonio "L.A." Reid. Simmons had reportedly feuded with Reid when Reid took over the label last year, and had questioned Reid's hip-hop credibility, but they say that is now water under the bridge.

"Russell Simmons is one of the guiding spirits and musical godfathers of hip-hop in America and around the world," Reid said in a statement.

## African Film a Moral Masterpiece

'Moolade' argues for liberation

The African film "Moolade," a masterpiece among the rich body of work by Ousmane Sembene, will be shown Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 7 p.m. each night at the Whitsell Auditorium, 1219 S.W. Park.

Sembene, an octogenarian (aged in her 80s) who is considered one of the greatest in African cinema,

is acclaimed for her independent spirit.

Moolade is about four little girls seeking protection after running away from the traditional salinde (circumcision ceremony). Collé, still haunted by the horrors of her own "purification" rites, notoriously refused to have her third daughter Asmatou circumcised. Asmatou now lives in shame as a bilakoro, an uncircumcised woman for whom marriage is a near impossibility.

"This has to be the most richly entertaining movie anyone has ever made on the subject of female genital mutilation," said J. Hoberman of The Village Voice. Collé declares Moolade, creating an asylum in her compound that protects the girls and enters into a shocking standoff, which pits female against male and progress against tradition. Sembene's gripping, courageous film ambitiously argues for the liberation of women as a basis of a progressive society.

## Art From the Soul

Cascadia hosts exhibit, silent auction

Some call it outsider art, some call it art from the soul.

Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare, Oregon's largest community-based mental health and addictions treatment agency, will host "Journeys Through The Mind's Eye," a juried exhibit and silent auction of client art on Wednesday, April 27, from 6 to 9 p.m., at The North Star Ballroom, 635 N Killingsworth Ct., in Portland.

The show celebrates the clients'

creations and will seed a fund to help create a community-based art and performing arts studio for people with mental health and addiction issues.

There will be about 70 pieces for sale in the silent auction, with an additional number of photographed works available for bidding.

On Thursday, April 28, a showing of the works will open at The Alberta Arts Pavilion and continue through May 24

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