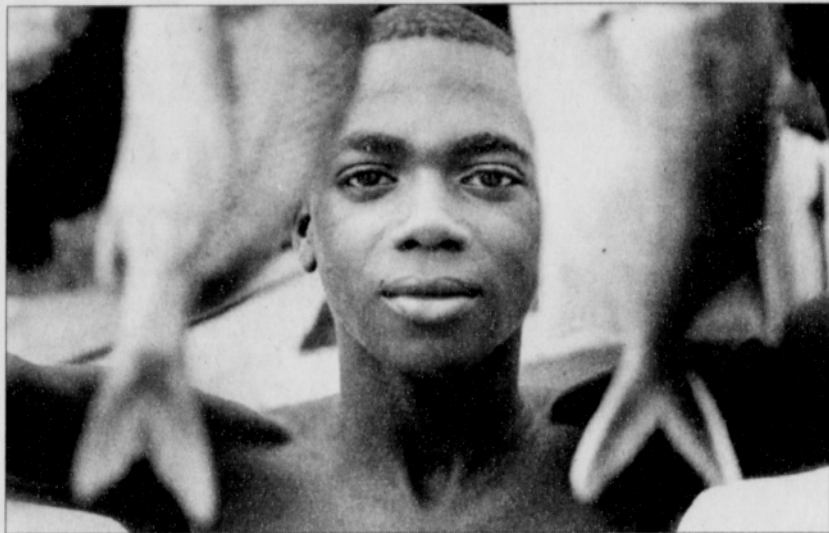


Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Accomplished Photographers

On NE ALBERTA ST Street



Edis Jurcy's 'Fish-Jamaica.'

Onda Gallery, 2215 N.E. Alberta St., is showcasing work by two award-winning photographers, Edis Jurcys and Hugo Ludena.

Jurcys' silver gelatin prints are images from Jamaica. A native of Lithuania, he studied at the Institute of Cinematography in Moscow and did an eight-year stint with the CTV Russian channel before moving to the U.S.

Ludena's color photos document urban Latino culture. He is the publisher of Latino Cultural Magazine in Seattle and has participated in many exhibits in the Seattle area.

The show runs through Tuesday, April 28.



Hugo Ludena's 'Mi Virgencita' (My Little Virgin).

Hip-Hop World Tones Down Sparkle

Recession means cheaper bling

(AP) — The hip-hop world is dialing back its bling.

The music genre defined as much by diamond-encrusted watches and designer sneakers as its gritty urban lyrics is scaling down its flash, insiders say, as rappers join the rest of the world feeling the pinch of the recession.

Rappers are cooling off some of their trademark "ice," sporting fewer and smaller chains, opting for plain white Ts over pricey labels and introducing budget-conscious fashion lines designed to let fans still capture the hip-hop swagger.

Make no mistake:

The industry that made New York businessman Jacob "Jacob the Jeweler" Arabov an urban household name isn't entirely reversing course. But "the day of conspicuous con-

sumption is gone," says Tamara Connor, an Atlanta-based stylist who has created looks for chart-topping rappers includ-

that referenced the glint of the diamonds on his neck, hands and wrists.

"We're still going to see some bling, but it's just not going to be as much," Connor says. "In-

Photo shoots, for example, are being done with fewer of the specialized medallions considered a calling card for the likes of Rick Ross, whose chain with a likeness of his head — com-

stones. "You can save \$3,000 a carat if you do non-ring quality diamonds for studs (earrings)," Connor notes.

Ben Baller, head of Los Angeles-based jeweler I.F. & Co., says the shift is most pronounced among up-and-coming rappers, for whom a steady income is seeming like less of a sure thing.

Before, a new artist might spend \$25,000 of a \$30,000 advance on a chain, according to Baller, who counts Fat Joe as a client. "Now they would rather try to spend \$5,000 and \$6,000," he says, adding, "they're willing to talk about options by using sapphires, using very, very low quality gold.

"Some people (are) even wanting to mix diamonds with cubics (cubic zirconia) so it would not be completely unguineau."

Cost cutting is major for the industry in which the carat-weight of one's ring or the price of tennis shoes could carry more cache than record sales. Ostentatious fashion has been in hip hop's DNA since Run-DMC sang the praises of Adidas in the '80s.

Rappers who have continued to flaunt their riches have received criticism. Fans bristled earlier this year after Kanye West unveiled a line of \$400-plus sneakers he crafted with Louis Vuitton.



DeAndre Ramone Way is better known by his rapper name Soulja Boy.



Rap star Lil Wayne has been known for surrounding himself in videos with stacks of cash and other bling.

ing Lil Wayne. In the late '90s, Lil Wayne surrounded himself in videos with stacks of cash and rapped about his \$50,000 pinky ring, or "bling," a term

instead of four diamond necklaces, it might just be a diamond bracelet — and it's a piece the celebrity wears all the time. They're not changing their jewelry out everyday."

plete with black diamond beard — has an estimated value of \$30,000.

Instead you might see a rapper in an off-the-shelf diamond cross or wearing lower-quality



Haunted Darkness to Freedom's Light -- Miracle Theatre, 525 S.E. Stark St., presents "El Grito del Bronx," a story about a convicted murderer awaiting execution and other persons trying to let go of their violent past. For mature audiences. Now playing through Saturday, April 25.

Live Jazz -- Every Friday and Saturday from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., the Third Degrees Lounge at the RiverPlace Hotel, 1510 S.W. Harbor Way. No cover or minimum purchase. For more information, visit pdxjazz.com.



82nd Avenue of the Roses Parade -- Rose Festival sanctioned parade begins at 9 a.m., Saturday, April 25 from Eastport Plaza, 4000 S.E. 82nd Ave. going north on 82nd Avenue of the Roses to Southeast Yamhill Street and disbanding in the Montavilla area. Additional fun activities will be held all day at Eastport Plaza.

Cultural Celebration -- Portland's racial, ethnic and tribal communities merge Fri-

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day, April 24 with the monthly Colored Pencils Art and Culture Night, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Intercultural Organizing office, 700 N. Killingsworth St.

Kirk Green Jam Session -- Come enjoy the smooth and soulful sounds of the Kirk Green Band every Sunday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at Club 720, 720 S.E. Hawthorne. The jam session and open mic is from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. All professional musicians are welcome. For more information, call 503-234-7738.

Totally Gospel II -- Peninsula Open Bible Church, 8225 N. Peninsula, hosts all styles of gospel, country, and contemporary music with host Riny Horst each Friday night from 7:30 p.m. -- 9:30 p.m. For more information, call 503-335-3132.

Poetry at Miracles -- Local and national artists and musicians share an evening of spoken word and music at the Miracles Club, 4069 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., each Wednesday, between 7:30 p.m.

and 9:30 p.m. **Festival of Birds** -- Grab the family and come join us for the festival of birds Saturday May 9, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sellwood Park, just south of Oaks Bottom Wildlife refuge. This is a free festival for the whole family.

Pink Martini and the Oregon Symphony -- Newly added concert for Portland's Globe-Trotting Salon, 923 S.W. Washing-

ton St., will take place Tuesday, June 2 at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 503-228-7343.



Get Intimate with Storm Large -- Storm Large brings here in-your-face sexuality, raw musical talent and breathtaking emotional honesty to Portland Center Stage in the autobiographical world premier musical Crazy Enough, now playing through June 7 in the Ellyn Bye Studio at the Armory, downtown.

Music Millennium Free Shows -- The Music Millennium, 3158 E. Burnside, hosts in-house live performances. Enjoy free music and the opportunity to meet artists. Call 503-231-8926 for a schedule.

Zoo Buck Tuesdays -- On the second Tuesday of every month, the Oregon Zoo hosts 2-Buck Tuesdays when guests can tour the zoo for the discounted price of \$2 per person.

OMSI After Dark -- OMSI After Dark is a night at the museum for the 21 and over crowd filled with food, drink and science fun; \$10 fee. For more information, call 503-797-4000 or visit omsi.edu.

Food and Entertainment -- Sliders Grill, 3011 N. Lombard, features an eclectic assortment of performers on the main stage, accompanied by delicious food. Call 503-459-4488 for more information.

One Clearance Blowout Sale

STOP

Music

Pick up at One Stop:

MIMS GUILT
for \$8.99

SMOKIE LIVE NORFUL
Smokie Norful
for \$8.99

Come enjoy the smooth sexy soulful sounds of the

Kirk Green Band

every Sunday from 7pm to 11pm at Portland's hottest dance club

720 Club

at 720 S.E. Hawthorne Ave., Portland, Oregon 97214 (503) 234-7738

The jam session and open mic is from 9-10pm
All professional musicians are welcome!

Every Sunday starting March 1st from 7-11pm
enjoy good food, music and friends

Dress to impress!