

To learn more about Art on Alberta, be sure to visit: [www.artonalberta.org](http://www.artonalberta.org)

### Art Spark Ignites September with AoA's Surrealist Inspired Fun

The always exciting RACC-sponsored third Thursday event highlighting local arts organizations took place at Vendetta on September 17 and featured yours truly – Art on Alberta. Our all-volunteer board engaged a lively group in *Exquisite Corpse* games spanning collaborative drawings and stories. Attendees stayed well beyond the confines of happy hour to create more art, chat, and revel in one of the last fair nights of summer. You can see pictures of the fun event at: [http://picasaweb.google.com/PDXArtSpark/ArtSpark\\_091709#](http://picasaweb.google.com/PDXArtSpark/ArtSpark_091709#)

October's event was as equally energetic with Portland Mural Defense presenting at Zaytoon on NE Alberta Street. Local muralists, artists, and art enthusiasts were treated to a raffle; the *Portland Walls* postcard book unveiling (now available at PAM gift shop); 80+ PDX murals slide show; collaborative mural creation. (Read more about our City's murals at: [http://neighborhoodnotes.com/media/news/2009/10/portlands\\_public\\_murals\\_a\\_tale\\_of\\_intrigue\\_and\\_triumph/](http://neighborhoodnotes.com/media/news/2009/10/portlands_public_murals_a_tale_of_intrigue_and_triumph/))

Art Spark is a fantastic opportunity to network with the arts-community, learn about arts organizations in Portland, and just have good, clean fun (with cocktails and conversation!). The event continues year-round, so be sure to support the varying hosts and venues.

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Walking along, I spot him.  
and the ants go marching two by two.  
into the darkroom, into the zoo. into the loo  
the sandy camels march two by two  
their destination, ~~the~~ timbuktu  
and when in-timbuktu, do as  
timbuktians do  
Go go go and never look back  
your legs feel like bricks, and your  
toes shoes are soggy.

Just three of the many wonderful *Exquisite Corpse* creations from the September Art Spark hosted by RACC and Art on Alberta.

## Call for Board Member, Volunteers

Art on Alberta currently has several needs for people to help us as we prepare for our 2010 programming. If you are an individual looking for job experience, we are looking for positive minded individuals who are comfortable working with a team for these roles:

### Board Position Opening:

*Possess the enthusiasm and organizational skills to help us coordinate volunteers? Eager to dive right in? Happy to work closely with others in service to our community?* Then the Volunteer Coordinator position on the AoA Board might be for you!

Our greatest volunteer need is for our May Art Hop event, but we would also like to create opportunities of varied length and skill levels for members of our community, art lovers, or anyone else who wants to be part of our unique Portland arts focused neighborhood. We seek an individual who checks and responds to email with some frequency, is highly organized, and loves working with others. Individual must commit to our all-volunteer team through June 2010 at a minimum. Please send a cover letter and current resume by November 1 to: [president@artonalberta.org](mailto:president@artonalberta.org).

### Additional Volunteer Needs:

#### *Alberta Street Historian*

Art on Alberta recognizes that our neighborhood has a unique history in our fair city, and we would like to document the way this neighborhood has evolved. We seek an individual with an interest in local history who will help us build a section of our website covering the history of NE Alberta Street from its original Irish/Italian roots, through the Vanport Flood, to present day and the individuals who worked to revitalize this neighborhood. Part of this task should include covering archives from the Oregon Historical Society, but may extend to gathering stories from longtime community residents. At a minimum, we would like to include this information on our website, but other community outreach is possible, if the volunteer has a vision about how to incorporate it with Art on Alberta's mission.

#### *Art on Alberta Historian*

Art on Alberta owes a large part of its recent renaissance to the arts. We seek an individual interested in documenting all of the permanent art on the street, both public and private. Gathering historical information from longtime arts advocates for the street, as well as working with the Regional Arts and Culture Council about projects under their oversight is within the scope of this position. The ultimate goal is to create a downloadable PDF guide which will serve as a walking tour to visitors. If other community outreach is of interest to the volunteer who takes on this task, we are open to suggestions fitting within our mission.

It is our dream for the *Alberta Street* and *Art on Alberta Historians* to work together when appropriate.

#### *Writers*

We also seek volunteer writers to contribute to our newsletter and blog. People with an interest in reviewing shows happening on NE Alberta Street, helping us profile member businesses, or interviewing artists for the monthly exhibitions mounted at our office should definitely apply! If you're looking for writing experience in any of these fields, please contact us about your specific interests.

#### *Media Assistant*

Art on Alberta's PR Coordinator needs an assistant to help promote our events, activities, and wish lists to online bulletin boards, calendars, Facebook page, Twitter, and other forms of digital outreach. This individual ideally would seek appropriate avenues for helping us promote ourselves in the local and regional community.

#### *Gallery Assistant*

Our Exhibitions Coordinator needs an assistant to help organize our monthly shows. This job mainly consists of gathering information about our featured artist(s) each month for the PR coordinator, but if you have other interests in helping promote this aspect of our community outreach, we are certainly open!

If you are interested in contributing to Art on Alberta and our arts community through any of these positions, please send a cover letter and resume to [president@artonalberta.org](mailto:president@artonalberta.org). There is no deadline for these five volunteer positions; we will fill them as the right applicant comes our way.

## Get Ready for *Art Hop 2010!*

### Art on Alberta Gears Up for Our Annual Event

We are already busy planning our main event of the year, *Art Hop*. Next year's theme is *ABC: Art Building Community* and we plan to involve our community like never before. During our popular day-long celebration, in addition to the usual menu of art, education, and entertainment, we plan to have several murals painted at multiple venues along NE Alberta Street. Each mural will pertain to a different aspect of the Alberta neighborhood – from historical topics to current civic themes such as bike safety, youth, and education – reflecting the multicultural makeup of our popular neighborhood.

Prior to the event, AoA will pair mural venues (nonprofit/community based organizations along NE Alberta Street) with artists; each artist will then facilitate community volunteers to help execute the artwork on *Art Hop* day. Some murals will be painted directly on buildings and others will be applied to plywood and mounted to building walls. After the event, we plan to produce a printed directory of all public art on NE Alberta Street which will be offered for free at member businesses.

To date, committed venues are the Community Energy Project and Sabin, CDC; artists Adriene Cruz and Rodolfo Serna; community sponsors Ciao Vito and Radio Room. We are also currently making outreach efforts to Alberta neighborhood schools and regional youth organizations to design and create many of the murals, with more opportunities for art creation for *Art Hop* attendees on event day.

Our hope for *Art Hop 2010* is to educate people of all ages how murals are made through observation and hands-on participation. The directory of public art produced after our event will serve as a self-guided tour where people can continue to learn about art on NE Alberta Street. We can't wait for May – and hope you join us in building community through collaboration and creativity.

## Get Involved.

### Become a member. Volunteer. Participate.

Art on Alberta is always accepting new members and loves volunteers!  
Your generous donation of money and time not only helps this all-volunteer organization but our amazing neighborhood in countless ways.

A membership form is available to download and print from our website at: [www.artonalberta.org](http://www.artonalberta.org). For more information email us at: [membership@artonalberta.org](mailto:membership@artonalberta.org).

We also have many volunteer opportunities for short-term projects. Please contact us at [volunteer@artonalberta.org](mailto:volunteer@artonalberta.org) if you are interested in being part of our fantastic team.

## Grow Gallery

*Last Thursday Featured Artists  
May through October 2009*

Our very own Grow Gallery at 1614 NE Alberta Street hosts exhibitions during the *Last Thursday* event. Here is a short list of the artists we have presented since the spring during our one-night only, three-hour show:

May Heather Zinger: photographs  
June Catherine Schaper: paintings, illustrations  
July Elephant Smiley: paintings  
August Alexis Mollomo: paintings  
October Noelle Scott: paintings, drawings

Please be sure to stop by the Grow Gallery when you're out and about during *Last Thursday*.

## Our People

### *Hello to Our New Additions*

**Chris Ellis** is our Community Outreach Coordinator who also runs the Alberta Drawing Group in conjunction with **Enterbeing**, NE Alberta Street's interfaith based community center. His photography, paintings, sculptures, and drawings can be found on display throughout Portland and are included in private collections, both throughout the United States and abroad. Chris attended Reed College and the Universite de Haute Bretagne, Rennes, France.

**Mary Bryant** is our Educational Outreach Coordinator. She and her partner moved into their Alberta bungalow in 2007 and are now happily adopted into many of the families on their block. Mary moved to Oregon as a graduate student and received her master's degree in Arts Administration from the University of Oregon in 2006. As a teaching fellow, she taught philosophy of art to classes of 80+ undergrad students while working as a user interface designer and sound/video editor for an interactive educational design firm to pay the rent. Highlights of her career as an artist and educator thus far include working as Ann Hamilton's production assistant, producing cabarets and multi-media dance events, earning her living as an undergrad by tutoring and teaching workshops on expository writing, and teaching stop-motion animation to kids 5-12 years of age.

### *Goodbye to Our (not-so) Old Friends*

Art on Alberta says goodbye to our Volunteer Coordinator, **Shir Ly Grisanti**. We wish her and her young family the very best.

We also say *see you soon!* to the fearless and tireless **Kathe Swaback**, who spearheaded this year's Art Hop event with her amazing efforts to bring Thelma Johnson Street, her work, and her family into public view. Her unwavering commitment to art and education in our neighborhood present assets reaching far beyond our community. Kathe carries on behind the scenes as our advisor extraordinaire.



**Art on Alberta**  
1614 NE Alberta Street  
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Art on Alberta is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the Alberta Art District's distinct cultural identity through art and educational activities.