



OREGON ARTS  
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## **Artists Selected to Create Interactive Projects for PSU's Smith Memorial Student Union**

Projects Unfold for a Year, Beginning This Month

Portland State University, through Oregon's Percent for Art in Public Places Program, has commissioned nine artists to create interactive projects at PSU's Smith Memorial Student Union. The projects, which involve artist residencies and student collaboration began this month and continue through June 2009. The artists are:

- Terry Chatkupt
- Melia Donovan
- Cecilia Hallinan
- Stephen Hayes & Linda K. Johnson
- Tahni Holt
- Horatio Law
- Marne Lucas & Bruce Conkle
- Laura Moulton
- Brittany Powell

Working with resident student organizations and assisted by a student, the artists undertake self-defined residencies for the creation of an artwork in any medium. The first three projects are already slated for this month.

Tahni Holt's "Information Studio" will turn a glass enclosed meeting room into a recording studio that is part Dance Dance Revolution (DDR: music video game that directs dancers how to place their feet), part movement karaoke and all multi-discipline performance. Participants will be given simple directives through headphones, and led to move through a score inspired by the personal interactions of Smith. Individual "sessions," for up to four people each, are scheduled June 27, 28 and 29 at Smith M114 (Mezzanine Level). Sessions take place every half

hour from 3 -7:30 PM, Friday; 5 -9 PM, Saturday; and 2 - 4, Sunday. **Reservations are required**; email: [hello@tahniholt.com](mailto:hello@tahniholt.com), or call: (503) 708-5801.

Cecilia Hallinan is creating a short experimental film recording Smith's human traffic, and musing on the transitional nature of the inhabitants of such a permanent architecture. The work will be screened in Smith late June.

Brittany Powell's "Postcards from Here" is a six postcard series documenting uncelebrated views of campus. The cards are now installed in card holders at their corresponding sites (exterior and interior) throughout Smith.

Smith Memorial Student Union is a tremendously active building at the core of PSU's campus. The building is for and about PSU students, and the only student union named after an actual student. The selection committee, therefore, felt it important to encourage a public art program that not just reflected, but included, the student groups whose offices line the floors of the Union. The selection committee included Smith administration and building users, artist and faculty member Harrell Fletcher and artist William Park.

Brief Bios for Participating Artists:

**Terry Chatkupt**- Film/video artist Terry Chatkupt received his MFA from California Institute of the Arts in 2004, and has lived and worked in Portland until a recent move back to Los Angeles. His work, including the recent autobiographic project, "Home Town Folks," often engages issues of memory, subjectivity and cultural difference.

**Melia Donovan**- Holding a BA in photography and an MFA in combined media, Melia Donovan melds the strengths of a photographer and a conceptual artist. She considers the intellectual and emotional repercussions of her work as a *space* while remaining very aware of the aesthetic quality and composition of the art object within its own boundaries.

**Cecilia Hallinan**- A painter, printmaker, and former member of the erstwhile 333 Studios, Cecilia Hallinan's has had work included in numerous exhibitions as well as the collections of the Portland Art Museum's Gilkey Center, TriMet, and the Heathman Hotel. Always eager to grow as an artist, this project will be her first filmmaking venture.

**Stephen Hayes & Linda K. Johnson**- While partners Stephen Hayes and Linda K. Johnson have assisted one another with past work, this will be their first true collaboration. Hayes, best known as a painter, has long been an active member of Portland's community of artists, teachers and arts supporters. Johnson, a renowned multi-disciplinary artist, is most recently the founder of a series of residencies at the South Waterfront.

**Tahni Holt**- Movement artist Tahni Holt often collaborates with other artists, architects, musicians, audiences; most recently as part of the South Waterfront residencies. Her works, both as an independent artist and with her company, Monster Squad, have been performed at venues throughout the Northwest and beyond.

**Horatio Hung-Yan Law's** work explores the history of the Asian Pacific-American immigrant experience, using common cultural materials to create meaning and metaphor. As an artist, he often involves himself in collaborative projects that rely on community participation, including his recent staging of "Tai Chi for 1,000" as part of a South Waterfront residency.

**Marne Lucas & Bruce Conkle** have collaborated extensively in writing, visual art in various forms, performance and curatorial projects. Each is an accomplished artist: Marne, a photographer and activist; and Bruce, a public art/installation artist. Lucas and Conkle are currently developing 'Eco Baroque' an elaborate installation to be shown at Marylhurst University's Art Gym; funded in part by the Regional Arts & Culture Council.

**Laura Moulton** is interested in writing, publishing and the print medium, and how these intersect with performance. Her works are inspired by the personal narratives of others, from postal workers to immigrants, high school student to prisoners, including a Sudanese man detained at Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp. She is currently writer in residence teaching at Jefferson High School and Harriet Tubman Girls' Academy.

**Brittany Powell-** Since receiving an MFA from California College of the Arts in 2004, Brittany Powell has received solo exhibitions at the Kimball Art Center, Park City, UT; Tilt Gallery, Portland; the Boise Art Museum; and Adobe Backroom Gallery, San Francisco. Her work crosses from performance to installation, and often involves her in the position of "host."

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Living up to its pioneering reputation, Oregon was one of the first states in the nation to pass Percent for Art legislation, placing works of art in public spaces throughout the state. The Oregon legislature enacted the program in 1975, recognizing that the arts contribute to and provide experiences that are conducive to the enrichment and betterment of the social and physical environment. For 32 years, public art across Oregon has been selected by citizens. The overall collection enhances the state's public spaces and contributes to our well-recognized quality of life.

The Oregon Arts Commission provides leadership, funding and arts programs through its grants, special initiatives and services. Nine commissioners, appointed by the Governor, determine arts needs and establish policies for public support of the arts. The Arts Commission became part of the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department in 1993 in recognition of the expanding role the arts play in the broader social, economic and educational arenas of Oregon communities. In 2003, the Oregon legislature moved the operations of the Oregon Cultural Trust to the Arts Commission, streamlining operations and making use of the Commission's expertise in grantmaking, arts and cultural information and community cultural development. The Arts Commission is supported with general funds appropriated by the Oregon legislature, federal funds from the National Endowment for the Arts and funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust.

Portland State University (PSU) serves as a center of opportunity for more than 25,000 undergraduate and graduate students. Located in Portland, Oregon, one of the nation's most

livable cities, the University's innovative approach to education combines academic rigor in the classroom with field-based experiences through internships and classroom projects with community partners. The University's 49-acre downtown campus exhibits Portland State's commitment to sustainability with green buildings, while many of the 125 bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees incorporate sustainability into the curriculum. PSU's motto, "Let Knowledge Serve the City," inspires the teaching and research of an accomplished faculty whose work and students span the globe.