

Artistry piped into Bay 78

The gallery, in its final First Thursday installation, explores the aesthetics of water

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April's round of First Thursday gallery openings includes a promising show in an alternative space, called Bay 78. Named for its original use as an industrial warehouse in Northwest Portland, the gallery is closing with this First Thursday show, maybe its most auspicious.

The gallery falls under the wrecking ball to make way for yet another new condominium project in Northwest Portland, a fact gallery owner Marty Houston has known since he and three (no longer involved) partners opened the space two years ago.

Prospects look good for the final show, though, aptly titled "Pipe Dreams."

One especially good omen is the involvement of Portland sculptor Lynda Wysong, a construction site veteran and lover of industrial scenes and systems. Wysong has spent more than a month filling Bay 78 with a large system of water pipes, working from a plan in the works for a year.

Drawing on friendly suppliers' "bone yards" (collections of unused pipes) and her own intelligent sense of the inherent aesthetic and sociological aspects of civic engineering, Wysong means to "make a connection between our homes and the vast subterranean wastewater system."

As usual, Wysong brings firsthand experience to her work. Her stint on the design team for the Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant Headworks partly informs her installation at Bay 78.

Other good prospects for "Pipe Dreams" include the addition of sound and choreography. The pipes emit water sounds, from actual water and "implied" water, as Wysong describes it.

Musician Mike Van Liew created an original composition based on recordings of water noises. Dancer and choreographer Linda K. Johnson performs a dance in the installation for the First Thursday opening (6-9 p.m.) and from noon to 1 p.m. every Thursday and Saturday through the end of the month.

Gallery hours are noon-5 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday (906 N.W. 12th Ave.).



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Pipes and Water as Art

Pipe Dreams is a room with two pipes, a sink, and dripping water. Sounds emerge from the pipes. The walls receive projections of a soft pattern of aeration foam. Water—both fresh & waste—and our strained relationship with this basic life-giving element is at the core.

Sound intriguing? You can see Pipe Dreams, an interdisciplinary art installation by artist Linda Wysong and musician Mike Van Liew, starting on First Thursday, April 4th. Then it will be open on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays through April 27th at Bay 78, 906 NW 12th, from 12 to 5 pm. Movement performances by Linda K. Johnson will occur during the opening reception and every Thursday and

Saturday from 12-1 pm.

Linda was on the design team for our Replacement Headworks and is now working on the design of the building's lobby. She is grateful for the encouragement and support of several employees including Michael Read, Lanny Afrank, Jim Morris and Lynn Vanderkamp. Initial funding for this project is from the Regional Arts & Culture Council, with matching donations from unions and consulting firms.

Sounds like a must-see for our employees!

