Eric Stotik met me in front of the building that houses his new studio in North Portland. With his dog Aniken sniffing the intruder madly, we walked down the hallway to his niche in the space, and we all looked at the set of large paintings on paper on the wall, especially that of an older woman and a large piece filled with birds of all sorts. I was stumped. Where were we? Because those didn’t look at all like paintings by Eric Stotik. They were far too large for starters, and their subjects had nothing to do with the wraiths, strange hybrids and other escapees from the subconscious that he usually paints.

Since winning RACC’s Fellowship Award for Visual Arts last summer, Eric Stotik has started experimenting with larger formats.

Eric Stotik, 2010, A Pair of Picnics 2 (LR177) (detail) acrylic on a rice sack, 9.5" x 13.5"
Photo: Bill Bachhuber
FEATURE CONTINUED

smiled the smile of someone operating in new territory, exactly what we were there to discuss — new territory and how he came to find it. But this exploration wasn’t the Romantic artist’s quest: Artists can be very practical people, and a practical opportunity, such as a $20,000 RACC artist fellowship, can change things dramatically.

First, we sat down and talked a little about the basics — how he grew up in the middle of Papua New Guinea, for example, but also visited great museums with his parents, who were Lutheran missionaries, the anthropology museum in Mexico City, Chinese scrolls in Hong Kong, German Expressionist works in St. Louis. The back and forth between the West and the wilds of New Guinea had its difficult moments. “Like Durer,” he said, “How are you going to talk about Durer with another kid when you’re hunting birds with slingshots?”

Stotik went to The Pacific Northwest College of Art and quickly caught on with the old Jamison/Thomas Gallery, which specialized in exhibiting the strange, personal visions of its artists. Stotik certainly qualified, because his small, intense, intricate little paintings seemed as though they’d been dragged kicking and screaming from his nightmares.

With the money he earned at the gallery, he did a lot of traveling — New Orleans, Boston, Tucson — before heading back to Portland in the early ‘90s with his wife, where he continued showing his work, first at PDX Contemporary gallery and now at Laura Russo Gallery.

But it was hard to make a living solely from his art, so parallel to his artist career, he’s done a lot of other things. During the housing boom, he worked on remodeling old houses so they could be flipped for new prices. And when the bottom fell out of that business, he did some “green” renovation work, though that was pretty awful: “You’re in a lot of very small crawl spaces with dead rats.”

Right before he got the RACC fellowship last year, he was playing in a couple of bands and acting as a handyman for some of his elderly neighbors, as well as painting, but his wife suggested that he continue with his professional development as a painter. So, he applied for the RACC fellowship, so he could start working in much larger formats.

When they selected Stotik as the winner last summer, the selection panel said, in part: “His work is compelling, mysterious and not like any other work. He has a long, slow burning vision, visceral, raw, on the edge of emotion. There is an incredible sorrow and discomfort that is universal that he is purging on his canvases.”

The $20,000 fellowship gave him the money to rent his new studio and start on a giant scroll of paintings on paper, the first few examples of which are on the wall now. Even more important, it reminded him that he was a painter first. “I was mortified to get this (fellowship),” he said, “because I was on the hook. The taxpayers are paying me now. I wanted to be a good steward of this.”

“So, this is a good fellowship, I suggested. And he looked at me like I was just a little crazy. “Oh, yeah!!” And we both laughed.

Barry Johnson is the executive editor of Oregon ArtsWatch, a non-profit arts and culture journalism project that explores the arts and their intersection with the wider culture in Oregon and the Northwest. Online at orartswatch.org.

For a gallery of other RACC fellowship winners from 1999-2009, visit racc.org/fellows.
3.12-4.12

FEATURED EVENTS

All events funded in part by the Regional Arts & Culture Council
racc.org/calendar

KOKESHI WORKSHOP FOR KIDS
3/3 & 10
Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center
oregonnikkei.org, 503.224.1458

MARCH RHAPSODY
3/4
Metropolitan Youth Symphony
playmys.org, 503.239.4566

ARTS FORUM FOR PORTLAND CANDIDATES
3/5
CAN, RACC, BCA
RSVP@TheArtsCan.org

EVERYBODY READS 2012: AN EVENING WITH HEIDI DURROW
3/6
The Library Foundation
libraryfoundation.org,
503.223.4008

RACE
3/6-4/15
Artists Repertory Theatre
artistsrep.org, 503.241.9807

FEED THE ARTS
3/8
Work for Art & Burgerville
workforart.org, 503.823.5111

POWFEST
3/8-11
Portland Oregon Women's Film Festival
powfest.com, 503.729.1142

SPRING PREMIERES: THE BEST OF NOW
3/9-10
Northwest Dance Project
nwdanceproject.org
503.421.7434

ON GOLDEN POND
3/9-4/15
Lakewood Theatre
lakewood-center.org
503.635.3901

WINTER CONCERT
3/10
Portland Youth Philharmonic
portlandyouthphil.org
503.223.5939

PBO IN FIVE ACTS 2012
3/11
Portland Baroque Orchestra
pbo.org, 503.222.6000

PARKER QUARTET
3/12-13
Friends of Chamber Music
focm.org, 503.224.9842

“H” IS FOR HONORED TOUR SHOWCASE
3/14-22
PHAME Academy
phameacademy.org,
503.764.9718

FADED: GIRLS + Binge Drinking
3/15
A film by Janet McIntyre
fadedthemovie.com

ART SPARK
3/15
featuring PDX Story Theatre,
Ooligan Press
portlandartspark.com
503.823.5111

KIDD PIVOT’S DARK MATTERS
3/15-17

KOKESHI WORKSHOP FOR KIDS
Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center
oregonnikkei.org
RACC Project Grant

RACC NEWS

FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT RACC.ORG

MARCH 3 & 10

KOKESHI WORKSHOP FOR KIDS
Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center
oregonnikkei.org
RACC Project Grant

MARCH 21: 2012 STATE OF THE ARTS REPORT AT CITY HALL
Help shine a light on the importance of arts, culture and creativity for Portland’s economy, livability and the education of our children. On March 21st at 9:30am, RACC Executive Director Eloise Damrosch will testify at City Hall to the State of the Arts in Portland joined by artists, educators, advocates and employers. Your presence can help convince Portland’s city leaders that the arts are essential to this community. RSVP@theArtsCAN.org.

RACC.ORG
LISTINGS CONTINUED

BUSY TOWN
3/17-4/1
Northwest Children’s Theater & School
nwcts.org, 503.222.2190

PORTLAND PIANO RECITAL SERIES: KIRILL GERSTEIN
3/18
Portland Piano International
portlandpiano.org, 503.228.1388

DAVID AXELROD & CARLOS REYES
3/21
Mountain Writers Series
mountainwriters.org, 503.232.451

JARDIN DE SUEÑOS
3/22-4/14
Miracle Theatre Group
milagro.org, 503.236.7253

ALL THAT JAZZ
3/23-24
Portland Chamber Orchestra
portlandchamberorchestra.org, 503.771.3250

THREE CONVERSATIONS WITH TAIKO

3/23-25
Portland Taiko
portlandtaiko.org, 503.288.2456

A HEAD OF TIME
3/23-25
Performance Works NW/
Linda Austin Dance
performanceworksnw.org,
503.777.1907

INSTALLATION BY JODIE ALEXI CAVALIER
3/26-4/20
RACC, Portland Building
Installation Space
racc.org, 503.823.5111

EAST COAST CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
3/28
Chamber Music Northwest
cmw.org, 503.223.3202

GALILEO
3/30-4/7
Portland Opera
portlandopera.org, 503.224.1407

NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE: SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER
3/31-4/15

Third Rail Repertory Theatre
thirdrailrep.org, 503.235.1101

ANNA KARENINA
4/3-29
Portland Center Stage
pcs.org, 503.445.3700

PORTLAND ARTS & LECTURES: ABRAHAM VERGESE
4/15
Literary Arts, Inc.
literary-arts.org, 503.227.2583

PORTLAND JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL
4/15-29
NW Film Center
nwfilm.org, 503.221.1156

CHROMATIC QUARTET
4/15-29
Oregon Ballet Theatre
obt.org, 503.222.5583

OLD TIMES
4/25-29
Profile Theatre Project
profiletheatre.org, 503.242.0080

NEW IDEAS IN MUSIC COMPETITION

4/26-27
Third Angle New Music Ensemble
thirdangle.org
503.331.0301

THE STORM IN THE BARN
4/28-5/20
Oregon Children’s Theatre
octc.org, 503.228.9571

FUNDING / RESIDENCIES

RACC GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT GRANTS provide financial support to arts organizations in Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas Counties. racc.org/GrantsOnline. INTENT TO APPLY DEADLINE: 3/7/12


FORD FAMILY FOUNDATION’S VISUAL ARTS GRANTS for small Capital

MARCH 15

FADED: GIRLS + BINGE DRINKING
A film by Janet McIntyre
fadedthemovie.com
RACC Project Grant

RACC.ORG

WASHINGTON COUNTY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT GRANTS. Small grants (for projects/programs from $1,000 to $5,000) and large grants (for projects/programs greater than $5,000). http://bit.ly/yk8HDk. DEADLINE: 3/15/12

UNIVERSITY CLUB OF PORTLAND 2012-13 RESIDENCY offers a professional studio artist from Oregon or southern Washington the opportunity to create in a private studio, offer workshops/lectures, exhibit/sell work, and membership at the Club. http://bit.ly/fMUL5N. DEADLINE: 3/15/12


RACC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS (cycle 1) assists artists or arts administrators to improve their business management skills and/or help advance the careers. racc.org/GrantsOnline. INTENT TO APPLY DEADLINE: 4/11/12

RACC OPPORTUNITY: FUNDING FOR PORTLAND MURALS. Funding available for murals on exterior walls within the boundaries of the City of Portland through the Public Art Mural Program. http://bit.ly/TP9RQm. DEADLINE: 4/4/12

ARTISTS RESIDENCIES IN ITALY. Open to artists around the world to apply for work for one month in a studio at la Macina di San Cresci. http://bit.ly/AjouR. DEADLINE: 4/10/12


RACC ARTIST FELLOWSHIP IN MEDIA ARTS. For professional media artists with a minimum of 10 years in the discipline who have resided in Oregon for at least 5 years and currently reside in Clackamas, Multnomah, or Washington Counties. racc.org/GrantsOnline. INTENT TO APPLY DEADLINE: 4/25/12

OREGON ARTS COMMISSION GRANTS: Arts Learning grants for K-12 students & teachers partnering with artists and arts organizations; Arts Services grants for local and regional arts councils or arts organizations that offer ongoing arts services to a broad public; Operating Support grants for Oregon’s medium and large nonprofit arts organizations. http://bit.ly/wuDVRO. DEADLINE FOR ALL: 5/1/12

RACC OPPORTUNITY GRANTS (Cycle 5) are for Portland-based nonprofit arts and cultural organizations to help meet special opportunities or assist with emergencies. racc.org/GrantsOnline. INTENT TO APPLY DEADLINE: 5/9/12

THE “H” IS FOR HONOURED TOUR PHAME Academy phameacademy.org RACC Project Grant - those whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics, or disability. http://bit.ly/3Q6w66. DEADLINE: 5/24/12

PORTLAND’S THEN. HERE. NOW. PROJECT. Photolucida seeks photographs of Portland and/or its people, either contemporary or historic, and juror Raymond Meeks will select and sequence a slideshow from the submissions. http://bit.ly/xGjGmV. DEADLINE: 3/10/12

CALLS TO ARTISTS


2012 HALLIE FORD FELLOWSHIP. $25,000 fellowships to Oregon mid-career visual artists who are on the cusp of attaining a new level in their work. http://bit.ly/z9WkMk. DEADLINE: 3/20/12

SITKA RESIDENCY. Artists, writers, scientists, and musicians can apply for this Art and Ecology’s Artist-in-Residency offering participants up to 3 ½ months to delve deeply into their work. http://bit.ly/ha9P4C. DEADLINE: 4/20/12

RACC OPPORTUNITY: SCHOLARSHIP IN MEDIA ARTS. For Oregon mid-career visual artists who have resided in Oregon for at least 5 years and currently reside in Clackamas, Multnomah, or Washington Counties. http://bit.ly/ha9p4C. DEADLINE: 4/20/12

NEA CHALLENGE AMERICA FAST-TRACK GRANTS support small and mid-sized organizations for projects that extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations.

MARCH 14-22

THE “H” IS FOR HONOURED TOUR PHAME Academy phameacademy.org RACC Project Grant

CALLS TO ARTISTS

PORTLAND’S THEN. HERE. NOW. PROJECT. Photolucida seeks photographs of Portland and/or its people, either contemporary or historic, and juror Raymond Meeks will select and sequence a slideshow from the submissions. http://bit.ly/xGjGmV. DEADLINE: 3/10/12


WAVELA / ANTELOPE VALLEY ARTS CENTER will host 8 artists for two separate one-week sessions in Oregon’s remote Wallowa or southern Washington. http://bit.ly/yk8HDk. DEADLINE: 3/15/12

MARCH 14-22
2013 CHINOOK BOOK COVER CONTEST for 5 cities. Each winner will receive $500 and their art will be featured on the cover of the 2013 Chinook. chinookbook.net/contest. DEADLINE: 3/16/12


PROJECT SPACE a dynamic temporary contemporary art venue in downtown Salem, OR, and Bush’s Pasture Park, OR that will offer juried exhibitions by regional artists, studio space, temporary outdoor sculpture as well as performances. http://bit.ly/zLj5dm. DEADLINE: 3/31/12

MAUDE KERNS ART CENTER’S CALL FOR ARTISTS for 2013-14 exhibits schedule. Artists working in all 2- and 3-dimensional mediums, including installations, are invited to submit images. http://bit.ly/4CaOD5. POSTMARKED DEADLINE: 4/12/12


PROPOSALS FOR SINGLE-PERSON EXHIBITION in photography and painting for the 2012-13 schedule. Send up to 20 images, an artist statement resume, SASE to: Junko Iijima, Director, Cawein Gallery of Art, Pacific University, 2043 College Way, Forest Grove, OR, 97116. DEADLINE: 4/20/12

13TH ANNUAL WEST LINN ARTS FESTIVAL is a juried exhibition and sale of fine arts and crafts. All artists are invited who produce original art in all media. http://bit.ly/JgFST. DEADLINE: 4/23/12


EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR for Chehalem Cultural Center (Newburg, OR). Seeking a strong, dynamic leader and effective manager to connect community and culture. Starting Salary $58,000-$65,000. http://bit.ly/A700kl. DEADLINE: 3/19/12

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR for MATI (Media, Arts & Technology Institute) specializing in multimedia programming that integrates K-12 Literacy, Arts and Technology. matipdx.org. DEADLINE: 4/2/12


WORKSHOPS / LECTURES

3/3 RACC WORKSHOP: COPYRIGHTS FOR ARTISTS AND CREATIVE PROFESSIONALS will provide practical information on various legal topics related to the protection of artwork and the related rights of creative service providers. http://bit.ly/xlTCyL.


4/14 RACC WORKSHOP: THE FUNDAMENTALS OF GRANT WRITING for individual artists for those who are new to grant writing or want a fresh perspective on it. http://bit.ly/HOxeER.

4/22 RACC WORKSHOP: YOUR CAREER IN MUSIC — OPTIONS AND NEXT STEPS, A PANEL DISCUSSION for musicians who wish to grow in their profession and/or consider the numerous options for broadening your career. http://bit.ly/xnw9XD.

10/18-23 ARTRAGEOUS TOUR: “Philadelphia Arts ~ Masterpieces, Mansions, Gardens & Murals.” Contact: Barbara, bgast@peak.org; 541.456.4331.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES


STUDIO IN NE ALBERTA. Large space, 24 hour access, private entrance & bathroom. $300 + utilities. Contact: ryan.carlile@gmail.com or 503.875.1984.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

GREAT THINGS IN MARCH

RACC’s mission is to integrate arts and culture into all of our lives, and we do that partially with help from people like you.

Every year more than 1500 employees in workplaces large and small contribute to Work for Art, and this year’s campaign is 83% to goal with a few months remaining. If your workplace doesn’t yet participate, please urge leadership to join up! You can also go to workforart.org and donate yourself. A $60 gift gets you an Arts Card with lots of two-for-one tickets to dozens of arts events.

Burgerville has named March 9th Feed the Arts Day at all 38 locations. Please gather up your friends, families and co-workers that day. A generous percentage of sales will be donated to Work for Art and thus the arts organizations you love.

March 5th, 7:00 pm at the Gerding Theater, City Council and Mayoral Candidates will meet up in a forum to answer tough questions about their arts support (backpage). Please spread the word and come. It’s free, a chance to get to know the candidates and their arts positions, and it’s important to pack the house. They will notice.

March 21st, 9:30 am at Portland City Hall is another chance to pack the house for RACC’s annual State of the Arts presentation to City Council (page 3). We will change up the format and messages leading towards the CAN campaign. Please come, bring your friends and help further this game changing opportunity for dedicated arts funding.

Arts Cards, burgers (or veggies), candidates in combat mode, fun with City Council. Great things for March. Thanks for your help!

ELOISE DAMROSCH
RACC Executive Director
ART NOTES
MarchApril 2012

Regional Arts & Culture Council
411 NW Park Avenue, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97209-3356
racc.org

March 5th, 2012 at 7pm at The Armory
128 NW 11th Avenue, Portland, OR 97209
RSVP@TheArtsCan.org

An Arts Forum with Candidates for Portland Mayor and City Council
Moderated by Randy Gragg of Portland Monthly Magazine

Jefferson Smith
Eileen Brady
Charlie Hales
Amanda Fritz
Steve Novick
Mary Nolan

Sponsored by