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This free Portland art show pairs 2 deeply personal exhibits you won't want to miss

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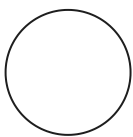
"Becoming Feral," by Pearlyn Tan at the Center Gallery at Multnomah Art Center. Lizzy Acker/The Oregonian



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By [Lizzy Acker](#) | [The Oregonian/OregonLive](#)

If you've never visited the [Multnomah Arts Center](#), now's the time to go.

Housed in a former school that was built in 1923 on Capitol Highway in Multnomah Village, Multnomah Arts Center is a city facility, part of Portland Parks and Recreation.

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If you go now, you will get a chance to see two solo shows paired in the Center Gallery: “Becoming Feral,” by Pearlyn Tan and “Contra Spem Spero (Against All Hope, I Hope),” by Irina Belova.

The show runs through Saturday, June 27, with an opening reception from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, May 28.

Tan is a Singaporean-born artist and educator who lives in Portland. In “Becoming Feral,” she is examining the metamorphosis of menopause through printmaking and mixed media.

Belova is also based in Portland and works with wool, silk and other mediums to create sculptural pieces.

“They are deeply personal,” Belova said in a press release, “shaped by my connection to Ukraine and by the collective struggle of my people. Yet they also speak to a universal truth that even in devastation, endurance emerges, quiet but unbroken.”



“Contra Spem Spero (Against All Hope, I Hope),” by Irina Belova at the Center Gallery at Multnomah Art Center. Lizzy Acker/The Oregonian

The two shows feature contrasting but complementary bodies of work.

Belova works exclusively in black and white, while Tan uses shades of indigo, blues and reds.

Both explore textiles, though Tan's materials seem lighter and smoother, while Belova's are heavier: White wool and burned wood.

Both women explore geometry but still feel earthy, though Belova's "earth" is the winter woods and Tan's is a summer meadow, full of flowers, at dusk.

The gallery is small, which makes the work feel all the more personal. The hardest part of experiencing this show is that you can't touch the work, which looks tactile and practically begs to be felt.

Multnomah Arts Center is located at 7688 S.W. Capitol Hwy and open 9 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday, and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday-Saturday; multnomahartscenter.org.

Center Gallery is free and open to the public.



Lizzy Acker

Lizzy Acker is a reporter on the Innovation Team and the author of the advice column, "Why Tho?" She covers everything from ice cream to extreme weather to car-less travel. She joined The Oregonian/OregonLive...more

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