

A midsummer night's view

Summer usually is the slow season for art galleries, but a cross s

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THE OREGONIAN

Historically, the summer months have been the cruelest ones for the art world. With warmer weather, people leave the city and flock to Oregon's great outdoors.

Little wonder, then, that galleries have often saved their best shows for the fall and winter months, when being indoors is no crime and people are more inclined to buy art. But with monthly exhibit slots and artist rosters as tight as recession-crunched city budgets, summer has evolved into prime time.

True to form, July's First Thursday offerings are a pupu platter of different pedigrees, perspectives and media. There's longtime Portland artist Tom Fawkes, for example, whose manicured and expensive landscapes have long held an adoring crowd.

Then there's photographer Thomas Roma, who offers Portlanders a slice of his native Brooklyn. There's also master paint-maker and color expert Robert Gamblin, who presents an excellent case study in the technical aspects of painting with his latest landscapes.

And then there is Heidi Kirkpatrick, who has roamed the streets of the world, taking pictures with a camera that amounts to a toy found in a box of Cracker Jack.

In other words, there's something for everybody.

Here's a tip sheet of shows to keep in mind while touring the downtown and Pearl District galleries, which are open from 6 to 9 p.m. Admission is free.



Blue Sky Gallery: Brooklyn photographer Roma is a two-time Guggenheim fellow who has made his name photographing his home of Brooklyn, from its mean streets to its sacred, lyric corners. Part romantic and part urban realist, his is a Brooklyn that's an imperfect haven of allure and grit. Roma's

latest series, which is also available in book form, consists of portraits that explore individuals and families in the borough's criminal justice system. *(1231 N.W. Hoyt St.)*