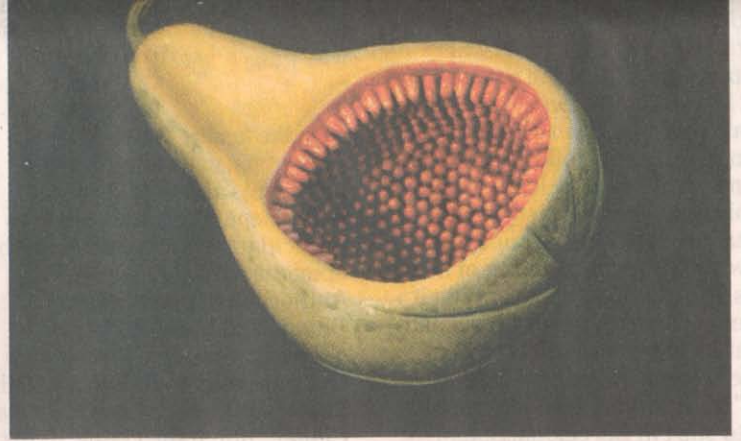


## PHOENIX RELEASE PARTY

■ Clark College will release its yearly student art and literary magazine, Phoenix, at a public gathering at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Fireside Lounge at the Penguin Student Union. The book is distributed to Clark students. If extra copies are available, they will be sold for \$10. For information, call 360-992-2353, ext. 3133.



DEANNA BREDTHAUER



**Top: Creating "Forbidding Fruit" meant that Vancouver photographer Deanna Bredthauer had to painstakingly pinch and shape every seedlike element of the ceramic piece.**

**Left: For this photo, Bredthauer didn't use a professional model, but she said she and the subject had fun experimenting with different props and accessories.**

DEANNA BREDTHAUER

# Turned on

# by art

Vancouver woman's  
adventurous take on art  
earns her a third appearance  
in Clark College's Phoenix

By **TRICIA JONES**  
*Columbian staff writer*

**C**lark College photography major Deanna Bredthauer likes to say she rarely goes wrong if she trusts her gut feelings.

After all, an apparent betrayal by that particular organ redirected her from microscopes to viewfinders.

And Bredthauer considers that change in focus to be a blessing.

A lingering bout with dysentery dogged Bredthauer for years, derailing her plans to become a biologist and forcing her to rethink everything about her health, energy and life. Now the Vancouver resident is poised to enter a Portland art college to complete her bachelor's degree in fine art and photography.

But first, Bredthauer's artistic ability will be recognized for a third year in Phoenix, Clark College's student art and literary magazine. The publication is funded by the Associated Students of Clark College, and students play a critical role in its production each year.

Two of Bredthauer's compositions, a photograph and an image of a ceramics work, will be reproduced in the 144-page book to be released on campus Wednesday. One of Bredthauer's photos is a quirky portrait of a friend of a friend glammed up in silver toreador pants, opera-length gloves, devil horns and scarlet lipstick. The accessories are an eye-widening foil to the tattoos on the young man's sculpted upper arms.

"I really didn't know (the model) all that well," recalled Bredthauer, 30. "We had

## If you go

■ **What:** Art Student Annual, an exhibition of student work created between spring quarter 2005 and spring quarter 2006. The exhibit will feature up to 120 works by students in photography, painting, drawing, design, metal arts, sculpture, computer imagery, pottery and calligraphy classes at Clark College. Also on display will be work featured in Phoenix, the college's student art and literary magazine.

■ **When:** Wednesday through June 6, with an opening reception 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

■ **Where:** Archer Gallery, Clark College. The gallery is on Fort Vancouver Way; the campus address is 1800 E. McLoughlin Blvd., Vancouver.

■ **Cost:** Free.

■ **Information:** Call 360-992-2246 or visit [www.clark.edu](http://www.clark.edu).

access to a basement studio in an old apartment complex in Northeast Portland, and somehow all these things came together ... I didn't expect what I got."

It wasn't the first time Bredthauer rolled with the unexpected. After graduating



JANET L. MATHEWS/The Columbian

**Vancouver's Deanna Bredthauer, a photography major at Clark College, makes adjustments to black-and-white prints in the campus photo lab. Some of Bredthauer's work will be published in Phoenix, the college's student-produced art and literary publication due out Wednesday.**

# Phoenix:

From page D1

from high school in Anchorage, Alaska, she took a year off from school and traveled to Costa Rica for a few months. The stay resulted in a parasitic illness Bredthauer couldn't shake and that devastated her immune system.

Bredthauer said Western medicine wasn't able to help her, so she began exploring alternative systems. These more holistic approaches to health encouraged her to think about her mental and emotional well-being along with the physical.

"I came to the realization that to be healthy and happy, I have to be creative actively," she said. This was a switch for a former student "in hot pursuit of a 4.0" grade point average. Bredthauer had avoided art classes in high school because she believed they weren't serious enough.

"I didn't give art the respect I should have ... and I honestly think that helped lay a foundation for bad health," Bredthauer said.

Around the time of her epiphany, Bredthauer's parents bought a home in Vancouver following her father's job transfer from Olympia to Portland. Bredthauer lived with them for a time while she recovered her health and eventually began attending Clark College. She took classes in digital photography and also has been studying darkroom photography.

She received a scholarship to Pacific Northwest College of Art and plans to begin a two-year course of study there in August. She's working

for a catering company that contracts with Portland State University while waiting to start a career in photography.

Bredthauer is interested in working with medium and large format cameras and would like to specialize in portrait photography, particularly of people from other countries. She remembers being fascinated many years ago by a UNICEF calendar featuring colorful photos of children.

In addition to photography, Bredthauer produces works in clay. One that can be seen in the 2006 Phoenix is a ceramic piece she calls "Forbidding Fruit." It resembles a fig lined with hundreds of hand-built seeds that look like — well, teeth.

Bredthauer describes her experience with Phoenix as being a great resource and a confidence-builder.

"One of the most important things is to realize I can do work other people value and want to put out in the world," she said.

This year marked Bredthauer's second stint on the art selection committee for Phoenix. Committee members incidentally do not vote for their own pieces, said art professor Kathrena Halsinger, one of two faculty advisors for the publication. The process is both confidential and blind.

"Choosing the students who will be on the selection committee is one of the most important things we do," Halsinger said. "We have ... mature students who would have a different perspective as to what makes a good piece, where other people may say, 'Oh, that's cute,' and get lost in the emotional impact of something."

Besides submitting and/or

considering work for publication, students also are involved in editing, layout and other facets of producing Phoenix. Students receive no class credit for their responsibilities, but stipends are given for certain jobs. The money comes from the Associated Students of Clark College. That makes Phoenix distinct from publications by other colleges, according to Lukas Bardue, Associated Students spokesman. "(Being student-produced) is what makes us stand out, and it is a feather in our cap," Bardue said.

Halsinger said that some colleges of similar size allow professional or faculty submissions in their publications. She's proud of the high standards the book achieves.

"I can't find a darn mistake in last year's, and I tried," she said.

And pictures don't tell the only stories in Phoenix. English professor Rita Carey oversees and advises the magazine's literary staff; she said students provide material of all genres, although the book is a little short of poetry.

"Usually I tell (students) to submit what touches your heart most. If it moves you, it has a good chance of moving us," Carey said of the selection process.

That's the sort of advice Bredthauer is acting on herself, both in art and life. And she's willing to go where that leads.

In describing the ceramic piece "Forbidding Fruit," Bredthauer could be talking about her own path: "It was not my original intention, but I'm totally happy it turned out that way."