



Search

[Login](#) / [Create Account](#)

Rebecca Ripple

language/habit/rubber/God

by [John Motley](#)

Los Angeles-based artist Rebecca Ripple's show at Tilt, which closes this weekend, is one of May's best exhibitions, but it manages this distinction in spite of itself. Ripple's four pieces are all exactly stuffed signifiers; a dizzy swarm of interpretations hovers around even the most restrained work here. But that sense of restraint nearly buries the conceptual acrobatics in *language/habit/rubber/God*, so named for the show's four pieces of art. At first glance, the gallery seems too big for the work, which veers from a Duchampian readymade (a rubber glove) to a vaguely floral sculpture in which an ornate lattice of silver wire blossoms out of four sac-like plaster forms. Ripple clearly uses whatever medium suits her purposes, but her playful and, at times, downright brainy approach to concept artlogically unites such diverse work.

The aforementioned readymade, "The Rubber Glove of Christ," is certainly the show's most vexing piece. It consists of a blue-and-green dishwashing glove dusted with gold ink, mounted on the wall, and posed in a bunny-eared peace sign. On the one hand, the sculpture—as aesthetic object—scans as the kind of flip and carelessly tossed-off flotsam that gives conceptual art its bad name. But Ripple's glove proves to be a decidedly fertile symbol. Taking off from the obvious "godliness is cleanliness" connotation, the object's meaning splinters into diffuse commentaries on religion, consumerism, and celebrity culture. For example, the glove's gesture simultaneously references stigmata,

ARTICLE TOOLS

[email a friend](#)

[print](#)

[share](#)

[save this story](#)

[add to custom list](#)

[comments](#)



a papal blessing, or Michael Jackson's glittering glove. That's the "King of Pop" from the "King of the Jews" in one move.

Rebecca Ripple
language/habit
/rubber/God Tilt
Gallery and Project
Space, 625 NW Everett,
#106, through May 24

Ripple's best piece, though, is "Language," a sculpture/installation hybrid that is displayed in an unfinished form. Like "Glove," it is also deceptively simple: A white doily covers an antique oak dinner table and a white buoy. The doily includes the first half of the word "language" and its pattern of expanding and contracting holes is modeled on the cellular structure of bubbles. To create the doily, Ripple taught herself the antiquated skill of tatting bobbin lace; the wooden bobbins can be seen, still attached and dangling from the doily's fringe. These factors all converge for a rather nuanced take on the nature of language. Here, language is presented as a kind of antiquated creature comfort or even a decorative accessory with little to no utility beyond its own ornamental value. Perhaps most compellingly, the doily asserts that language is a kind of blanket or wrapper we drape over the physical world. It hardly fits and the doily's pattern of divergently sized holes obscures what's underneath as often as it reveals it.

[more articles in Visual Art »](#)

Tags: [Rebecca Ripple](#)

COMMENTS (0)

[Add a comment](#)

Your comments

Related Stories from Altweeklies.com

Jeffrey Katzenberg's Cure-All for the Movie Industry: 3-D

No longer, says Katzenberg, will 3-D serve as a cheap "gotcha" gimmick -- an exploitation hustle -- but as a way to advance storytelling and "emotionally immerse" the audience into the film.

by Robert Wilonsky
[Dallas Observer](#)

Two Photography Books Remember Punk's Growth Spurts

Punk may roll a little in its grave now that it's been mythologized, but if it's going to get the coffee table treatment at least *Skins & Punks* and *Radio Silence: A Selected Visual History of American Hardcore Music* offer it respect.

by Tony Ware
[Baltimore City Paper](#)

Tempe Street Preacher Omar Call Preaches the Gospel of Atheism

Usually, street preachers share the word of God. But this blue velvet guy is a different kind of preacher. He's a devout non-believer, and he preaches atheism.

by Niki D'Andrea
[Phoenix New Times](#)

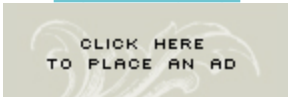


[pitchshifty](#)

How do I sum up my entire existence and essence of being in a neat...

Browse...

- [Girls seeking Boys](#)
- [Girls seeking Girls](#)
- [Boys seeking Girls](#)
- [Boys seeking Boys](#)



People who saved...

[ripple](#)



From the Archives

☰ [Wild Wild West](#)

by John Motley

☰ [Eric White](#)

New Paintings

by John Motley

[More»](#)

Author Archives

☰ [Mapping the Subconscious](#)

The Secret World of Atlas Sound

by John Motley

☰ [Mark Hooper](#)

There: Here

by John Motley

[More»](#)

Recommended Events

Adam Sorensen: *False Fjords*
@ PDX Contemporary Art

Tuesdays–Saturdays. Continues through Jan. 3

Comments (0)

APEX: MK Guth
@ Portland Art Museum

Tuesdays–Sundays. Continues through March 1

Comments (0)

Impossible Instruments/Future Flags
@ Fourteen30 Contemporary

Tuesdays–Saturdays. Continues through Jan. 17

Comments (0)

AD OF THE WEEK



Open House at The Bungalow Rose
All through the month of December Christmas merchandise is 50% off. We have ornaments, decorated trees, stuffed

characters, candles, cards,
etc. ▶

Bands Page

Housing	Jobs
Musicians	For Sale
Wheels	Services
Health	The Arts
Friends 'N' Neighbors	
Bulletin Board	
Personals	Adult

POST AN AD

holocene

1001 se morrison

239-7639

wed 5pm-2:30am

sat-sun 8pm-2:30am

21+

times may vary so please
see the calendar.



•Beaverton
503.235.6969

•Clackamas
503.203.6969

•Downtown
503-295-6969

•Hollywood
503-239-6969

•Tigard
503-244-6969

mens apparel
womens apparel

"over 10,000 dvd
titles to
choose from"

late night
shopping hours

www.fantasyforadultsonly.com



GROUND KONTROL CLASSIC ARCADE

GAMES

BEER

WINE

DJs &

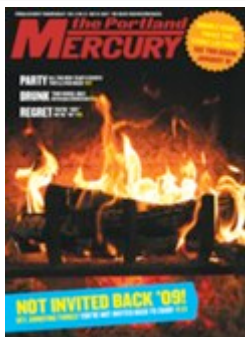
LIVE MUSIC

ALL AGES NOON-7PM

21+ 7PM - CLOSE

**511 NW COUCH ST.
503.796.9364**

ABOUT PORTLAND MERCURY



- [Archives](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [Masthead](#)
- [Advertiser Directory](#)
- [Ad Info & Rates](#)
- [RSS](#)

CLASSIFIEDS »

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Housing | Health |
| Roommates | The Arts |
| Jobs | Friends 'n' Neighbors |
| Musicians | Escorts |
| For Sale | Personals |
| Wheels | Bands |
| Services | |

GOING TO SEATTLE?



- [Features](#)
- [News](#)
- [Food & Drink](#)
- [Music](#)
- [Film](#)
- [Visual Art](#)
- [Theater](#)
- [Books](#)
- [Slog](#)
- [Line Out](#)

[Home](#) [Articles & Archives](#) [News](#) [Restaurant Search](#)
[Savage Love](#) [Food & Drink](#) [Music](#) [Film](#) [Visual Art](#) [Theater](#) [Books](#) [Blogtown, PDX](#) [End Hits](#)
[M.O.D.: Mercury on Design](#) [Performance Events](#) [Movie Times](#) [Classifieds](#) [Personals](#) [Bands Page](#)

All contents © Index Newspapers, LLC
605 NE 21st Ave
Portland, OR 97232
[Contact Info](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Production Guidelines](#)