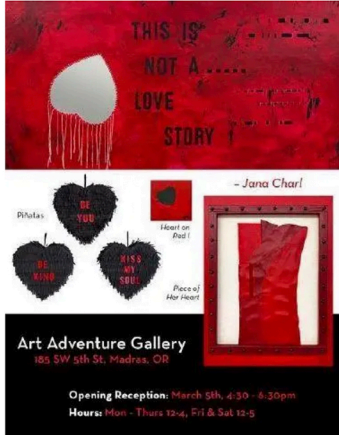


# Madras' Art Adventure Gallery welcomes "This is not a Love Story" exhibit for March and April

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By Candice Stilwell



Jana Charl's art will be featured in the Adventure Art Gallery in March and April (Coralee Popp)

The Art Adventure Gallery is welcoming a new exhibit, "This is not a Love Story," by Jana Charl for the months of March and April.

Charl has previously lived in Madras but moved to Portland in June 2025. She is "honored" to be featured in the gallery.

"This exhibition is deeply personal," Charl said in her artists' statement. "The Madras community I've grown close to is where I feel at ease being vulnerable."

She describes the art in this exhibit as mixed-media and acrylic paintings, and said that sustainability and conservation are central to her art. Her materials for the art featured in this exhibit were meant for dump sites, and she is "fascinated" with the textures and colors to be found in salvaged items.

"I'm deeply engaged in the process of assembling, reconfiguring, and giving new life to these discoveries," Charl's statement said. "Often, I treat the canvas as a textile—cutting, sewing, and embroidering into its surface. I've also approached it like paper, drawing on it, cutting out forms, and gluing them onto stretched canvas. I love the process of mixing pigments and exploring color, sometimes by partially blending colors before applying them, then continuing to manipulate them on the surface with brushes, palette knives, and my fingers."

Charl enjoys the intersection of telling a story and creating art.

"In consideration of Madras's diverse population, I hand-made piñatas and integrated beadwork into paintings, honoring these practices as both art forms and powerful means of storytelling," Charl's statement said.

Another part of the exhibit features a series of 18 paintings created from 2004 to now, which incorporate words about relationships into the art.

"The exhibition challenges the notion that relationships are fairy tales with simplistic, happily ever after endings," Charl's statement said. "Instead, it acknowledges the messiness— misunderstandings, mistreatments, and emotional complexity. The show expresses a wide range of emotions, often through humor and cynicism, while ultimately aiming to foster empowerment."

The statement also said Charl feels sharing and discussing these experiences "is essential for building healthier connections."

She said the narrative of these pieces comes from her cisgender, straight perspective, but is meant to be taken "universally- to all partners and all kinds of relationships."

The exhibit's opening reception will be on March 5, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at 185 S.W. Fifth St. in Madras.