

# DEM PASSWORDS

PAT MAHER  
"MUCOID PLAQUE"  
October 13 – November 17, 2012

OPENING RECEPTION  
Saturday, October 13  
from 7 to 10 PM



Dem Passwords is pleased to present "Mucoid Plaque," Pat Maher's first solo showing of artworks.

Maher has honed his exquisitely degenerated style of collage making as a zine publisher and musician operating in the Pacific Northwest since the mid 1990's. Alternately known as Glamorous Pat and for projects including Sisprum Vish, DJ Yo-Yo Dieting, and Indignant Senility, Maher's fine art output has been created mostly in relation to the production of his music, its packaging and distribution through his mail order business, Cherried-Out Merch, and record labels including Type Records and Weird Forest.

"Mucoid Plaque," a term coined by naturopath Richard Anderson to describe an elusive fibrous shit rope alleged to cling to the inside of the human gastrointestinal tract and removable only through colonic cleansing, is Maher's outward reference to "artists unloading psychic garbage onto their audience" and inwardly to a sort of revitalizing and cleansing of his own spirit. The idea of *psychic garbage*, however, is useful in relation to Maher's work too if you acknowledge that his knack as an artist is for finding transcendent tones in materials that may otherwise be in the recycling bin.

In this exhibition, Maher is also recycling his own degraded work with a ribbon of water damaged pages of an old photocopy zine running along the floor of the gallery's west facing wall underlining framed works dating back to 2007, content previously featured in French graphics journal Nazi Knife. In contrast, along the east facing wall of the gallery, prints and original versions of his latest works alternate back and forth in a way that evokes a waveform, an allusion to the "rotten-ambient" music that is his hallmark.

Hundreds of delicately arranged tiny strips of cut paper with rounded and serrated edges are layered

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on top of each other like brushstrokes of paint; the paint pallet here being Fangoria(?) magazines, mail order catalogs and old paperback book covers, among other printed materials, culled more often for color than content. The content, however, is key and never too far from the instantly identifiable Maher aesthetic: halloween motifs, rubber stamps, spiderwebs, mildew, missing person mugshots. He's more of a jock than a nerd and by that I mean he's not a pussy. His work has teeth. It's oozing. This is collage work closer to black mold than Black Dice.

The opening reception will include a music performance by Pat Maher to begin promptly at 9 PM.

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