

HOT SPOT: Oakland Art Murmur

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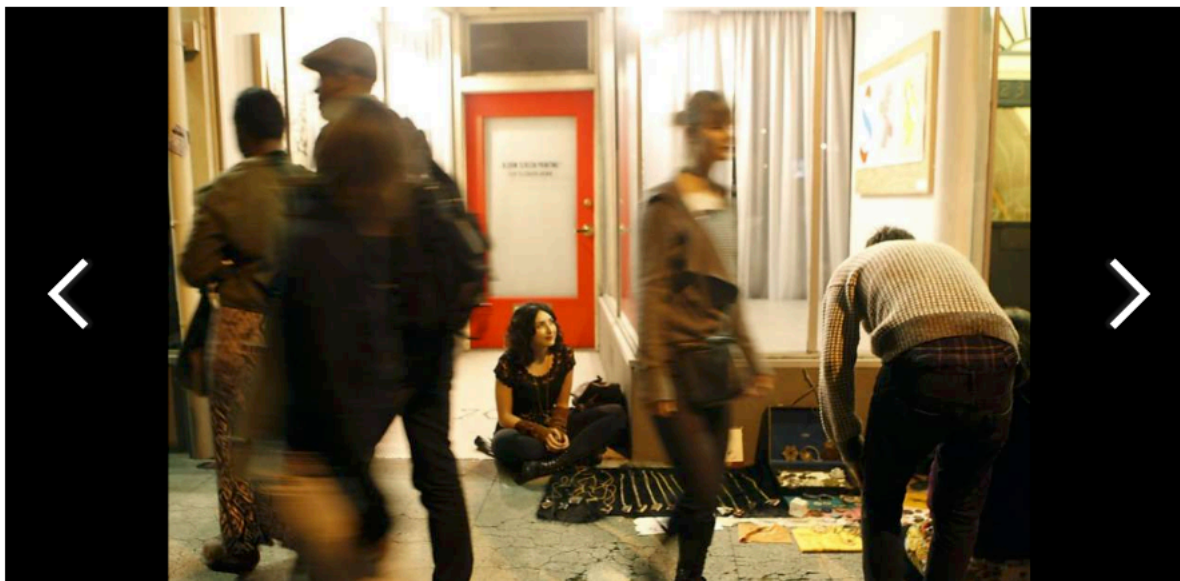


Photo: Michelle Terris, The Chronicle



IMAGE 1 OF 3

Holli Thomas sits outside and sells jewelry on Friday, August 5, 2011 during Oakland's Oakland Art Murmur.

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What: Art lovers of all stripes troll the Uptown district for Oakland Art Murmur the first Friday of each month, roaming the streets and jostling for space in the many galleries. It's a spirited, loose vibe, like New Year's Eve without the sloppy drunks. Trippy art videos are projected on an office building wall on Grand Avenue near Broadway. Multiethnic food vendors cluster on 23rd Street (between Telegraph and Valley, closed to car traffic), and Tara's Organic Ice Cream in the 25th Street Collective warehouse space attracts a line. Live music joins art upstairs at Vessel Gallery on 25th, which on Aug. 5 featured Oakland electronic band Mwahaha.

Who was there: The usual range of Oaklanders: the young, restless and tattooed, casual-chic hills dwellers, porkpie-hatted parents with kids in strollers, and all colors of the rainbow.

Details: Oakland Art Murmur is free and takes place from 6 to 9 p.m. the first Friday of every month from 22nd to 26th streets between Broadway and Telegraph. Some galleries sell wine and beer to be consumed indoors only. There's also Saturday Stroll 1 to 5 p.m. weekly if you don't want to crowd-surf on first Fridays. For more information, go to oaklandartmurmur.org.