



ARTS LIFE PRODIGIOUS SOUND

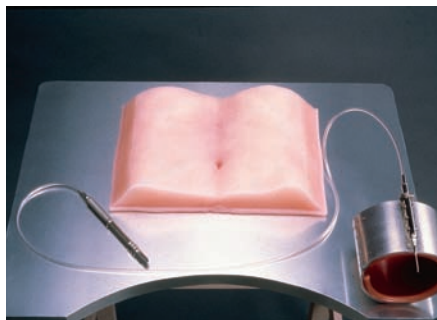
The very definition of a child prodigy, guitarist Julian Lage began playing blues at age 5 and performing in clubs around his California hometown of Santa Rosa at 7. A year later he was the subject of a 1996 Oscar-nominated short documentary, "Jules at Eight," before appearing on the 2000 Grammy Awards and touring with jazz great Gary Burton as a sixth-grade adolescent. Lage has also played with such guitar superstars as Carlos Santana and Pat Metheny and recorded with both David Grisman and Martin Taylor. The young instrumentalist, whose passions also include bluegrass and folk, is now immersed in postgraduate classical music studies in Boston.

Lage visited Burlington for a performance in 2002 courtesy of University of Vermont's Lane Series, which is bringing the virtuoso back Oct. 17. This time he is also a composer with a debut solo album, "Sounding Point," to his credit.

"We have an interesting history with him," says Natalie Neuert, the Lane Series manager. "Julian came to our attention when he was 14. We didn't consider him a novelty but an incredible talent, the kind of genius that comes along once in a blue moon. We thought, 'Wouldn't it be fun to see what he's like at 21?'" As impressed by Lage's "musicality" as she has been by his technical skills, Neuert observes: "He's got a beautiful, melodic, soaring style."

- **WHAT:** Julian Lage
- **WHEN:** 7:30 p.m., Oct. 17
- **WHERE:** University of Vermont Recital Hall, 384 South Prospect St., Burlington
- **COST:** \$25 and less
- **INFORMATION:** (802) 656-4455 or www.uvm.edu/laneseries

— Susan Green



ARTS LIFE ANATOMY OF AN EXHIBIT

Painter Linda E. Jones and sculptor Sasanqua Link had not met before being paired for this fall's "Medicine & Mortality: Postmodern Gothic," a Firehouse Gallery exhibit. But the Burlington artists may be sisters under the skin. In fact, the skin, the arteries, the muscles and the rest of the human body figure in their respective creative endeavors.

"These are mementos of trips to the hospital," Jones, 52, says of the x-rays, acupuncture needles and stitches that find their way into her abstract assemblages. "It feels irreverent to discard them."

She and her two sons have survived numerous serious conditions, including a bone infection, a concussion and a lacerated liver. Nonetheless, Jones believes the detritus of treatment in her "reliquaries" is not morbid. "I spent time in Nepal," she says, "where they embrace death and disease as part of life."

Link, 37, initially planned a career as a medical illustrator. College jewelry and metalsmithing courses later became equally important for her fanciful representations of anatomy with titles such as Abdominal Stele and Umbilical Relic. The pieces are rendered in tile, wax, silicone, wood, bronze and myriad other substances.

"I look at it clinically and spiritually," Link explains. "I do sell sometimes, but it's not like people are breaking down my door to put this work over their couch."

- **WHAT:** "Medicine & Mortality: Postmodern Gothic"
- **WHEN:** Oct. 30–Dec. 12
- **WHERE:** Firehouse Gallery, Burlington
- **COST:** Free
- **INFORMATION:** (802) 865-7165 or www.burlingtoncityarts.com

— Susan Green



ARTS LIFE PROGRESSIVE PARTY

During one of Margaret Cho's previous visits to Vermont, she met with former Gov. Howard Dean, then a Democratic hopeful in the presidential race. "I'm a big fan," says the comedienne. "I like him a lot."

A San Francisco native of Korean heritage, Cho — performing Sept. 25 at Higher Ground in South Burlington — began as a standup comic at 16. Now 40, she's known for cutting-edge humor and "very progressive" views on race, gender and sexual identity.

Cho's resume includes five national tours, five comedy albums, an off-Broadway variety show and two published memoirs. Cho also appears regularly on cable TV, including her fifth concert film, "Beautiful," produced for Showtime, and the Lifetime series "Drop Dead Diva."

For "Diva," Cho took a turn at comedy-fantasy, portraying the assistant of an attorney whose plus-sized body has been inhabited by a skinny, self-absorbed model. And to shoot "Diva," Cho relocated to the Georgia community of Peachtree City — where her notions about the South were upended.

"At first, I was angry, frustrated and freaked out by living here," she says. "But I've met the kindest, most loving, gentle, sweet people who just happen to not believe what I believe."

- **WHAT:** Margaret Cho
- **WHEN:** 8:30 p.m., Sept. 25
- **WHERE:** Higher Ground, South Burlington
- **COST:** \$20 in advance; \$22 day of
- **INFORMATION:** (802) 652-0777 or www.highergroundmusic.com

— Susan Green