



VARIABLE WEST

Oregon picks from Christine Miller

Cliff Notes

Each week, our regional Cliff Notes columnists [Christine Miller](#), [Rachel Elizabeth Jones](#), [Sam Hiura](#), and [Nia-Amina Minor](#) pick the most exciting events and exhibitions on the West Coast.



Melanie Flood and Matt Morris: Designing Women

ILY2, Portland, OR

May 25 to July 13, 2024

I started *Glitch Feminism* by Legacy Russell a few years ago. Although it's on my long list of unfinished books, the first few chapters left a lasting impression on my understanding of gender within a larger system. A glitch can disrupt the entire system. This book came to mind when viewing ***Designing Women*** at ILY2. The exhibition poses the question "who designed women?"

The gallery, adorned with pink satin bows from ceiling to floor, creates an enchanting backdrop for the two bodies of work. Flood's high-resolution photographs of women and women's items contrast with Morris' organic paintings and textile works, offering an intriguing push and pull. Both bodies of work are abstract in their own ways, yet they specifically address set representations of gender, leaving me to question the definition of "woman," if a definition is even needed.