



PAINTINGS BY KARA MARIA

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Among meats, it's not because it is more readily available and chicken are both more efficient to raise and less expensive the opposite. It is both harder to breed and more expensive that it has become inextricably connected to social status the household – or the society – becomes, the more beef active "pecuniary" comes from the Latin *pecus*, meaning cattle; and in cattle. Beef is prestige, and no chicken or pork cut is the signon (a quaint name for the psoas, or pelvic muscle, of a

purely economic equation. Some anthropologists claim that carries the trace of ancient beliefs. From the paleolithic bull Zoroastrian, Mesopotamian, and Babylonian deities, the ancient with the Divine Bovine and the Big Bull. Hindus have long sacred and untouchable, but the Greeks and Romans practice worship of a different sort, relating to power and virility sacrifices that led to ritual feasts.

no longer erecting temples to bulls (and none of us to Zeus) table, the prime cut of beef still exerts a strong pull. And though knowledge about nutrition to live healthily on a vegetable worrying about diminished brain size, our instincts are meat. As anthropologist Marvin Harris has noted, no one has exclusively vegetarian society, operating without any sort of only in Genesis, before the fall, do we find an account of both humans eating nothing but fruit and vegetables and grass. Pre-terrestrial, but this world is carnivorous. ■



GLUE, AND WHERE TO STICK IT

It used to be that people seeking guidance as to which adhesive works best on human bone were left to fend for themselves. All that changed in February, 1999, when computer programmer Dave McKeellar and theatre-prop-builder Heather Kent founded thisstochat.com, a Toronto-based Web site and the primary online source for information about glue. Here, *Passing Show* correspondent Jennifer Leonard speaks to the site's creators about sticking together.

How does the site work?

DAVE: "When users come to the site, they find a finite list of surfaces to choose from – ceramic, leather, paper, wood, etc. – in order to find out how to glue one to the other. Anything over and above the most common offering gets us into the eccentric zone – people who actually write letters like, 'Please don't think I'm weird but I'm trying to glue human bone.'"

What's the most unusual request you've received?

HEATHER: "I'll read you one e-mail we got: 'I want to glue half-marbles to a bowling ball. I saw one and it was beautiful. The glue has to be able to take the Florida heat and storms. Please help.'"

DAVE: "In fact, we got an e-mail months later from another crafty fellow with a similar request. So I put them in touch with one another. I couldn't resist. One of them even wrote back, referring to the finished product as 'the talk of the trailer park.'"

Is there such a thing as a perfect glue?

HEATHER: "There's no such thing as an all-purpose glue. Glues are designed to do one particular job. And that's what our Glue of the Month section is about. We select a glue each month and phone the company for background information."

DAVE: "It's like they've been waiting twenty years for someone to call and say, 'We're making your glue our Glue of the Month.' And they're going. 'What? What? Bertha, you've got to hear this!'"

FIRST RULE OF THE ALLIANCE PARTY: DO NOT TALK ABOUT THE ALLIANCE PARTY

Stockwell Day is scheduled this month to present his strategic plan for the Canadian Alliance to the party's National Council, a move intended to quell recent calls for his ouster. The Alliance, in fact, has been plagued by so much infighting of late that it's begun to resemble a sect from *Fight Club*, the film that starred >