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## An Electrifying Assimilation

➔ **ARTIST MARY COBLE** knows how to make an entrance. On the opening night of her new Conner Contemporary exhibit, "Aversion," the artist will attach electrodes to her body in a simulation of the horrific aversion therapy technique to which numerous gay men and lesbians were subjected until as recently as 1973. A video narrative of people who underwent this sadistic form of "treatment" recounting their experiences brings home how common the therapy was for gays and lesbians and how little scientists understood the workings of human sexuality. Coble's performance also touches on thorny current questions about torture, mistreatment of minorities and how a culture approaches a segment of its populace that makes it uncomfortable. Those who can't make it to the live performance can watch a webcast of it at [www.connercontemporary.com/webcast](http://www.connercontemporary.com/webcast). *Conner Contemporary Art, 1730 Connecticut Ave. NW; opens Fri., performance 7 p.m., through June 30, 202-588-8750, connercontemporary.com.* ARION BERGER (EXPRESS)