

Northeast Arts Insights

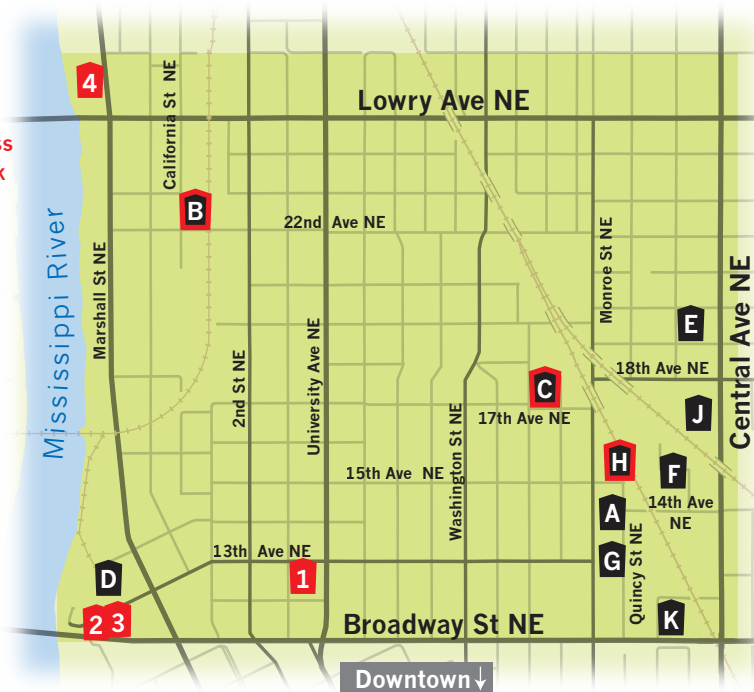


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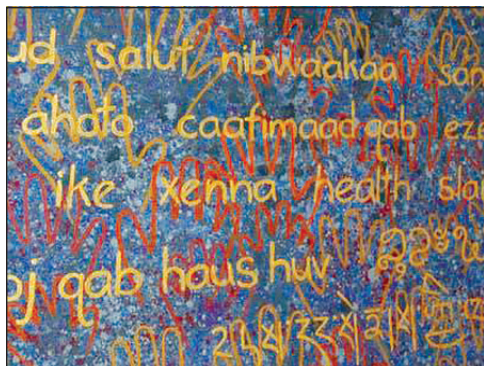
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Major art buildings in the district are in black, current page sponsors in red; both, in red and black icons and listing. For sponsorship info call Margo at 612-788-9003.

“We the People” at 2001 A Space



Excerpts from Karen Wilcox's interview with Loretta Bebeau

“We the People” opens Friday, March 10, 7-10 p.m. with a reception at 2001 A Space, 2001 5th St. NE in the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District. Loretta Bebeau's work, paintings on canvas and photo documentation of her community process, will be on view through March 31, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays noon-4 p.m. or by appointment, 612-462-3270.

“The paintings for ‘We the People’ evolved from earlier work that I’ve done with text, but also came naturally by way of how I choose topics...I start by assessing where I am in my life and what I need to say. I grew up in a small town in western North Dakota where there’s not much diversity. I wanted to show my appreciation for the rich experiences I have had while living in the Twin Cities. I’ve had the good fortune to make friends with many different types of people here.

“While teaching art at an alternative school I met many immigrant teenagers who learned English in foreign refugee camps. They didn’t remember much of their original vernacular, and never learned how to write in their native language. Their experience reminded me of my family history. I was raised in a bi-lingual household. My family spoke a language based on German, combined with Yiddish and Russian...

“My series of paintings include two Native languages and nine languages from Africa, along with several European languages. This spectrum corresponds to the settlement of Minnesota and to the heritage of the United States. Swahili, Somali, and Oromo were the first African languages I included, then I researched early colonial days to discover Yoruba and Zulu.

“I chose [to interpret] the word ‘health’ because it is a positive word, a word that we can unite around. I wanted the celebration of diversity that could be interpreted as a wish for the future.

“...Each culture conveys the wish for health in a different manner. Many Native American languages don’t have the word ‘health;’ they use the word ‘wisdom.’ The Hmong language uses a phrase to communicate ‘health’ according to the situation.

“...Beginning in 2013 during Open Streets NE, and for three consecutive summers, I set up a table on Central Avenue and invited people to trace their hands. At first, people were suspicious of me, but now most participants see it as an interesting project and want to contribute their written language, especially if they see it’s missing from my paintings.

“In 2011, I received a Minnesota State Arts Board grant to create nine paintings using 27 languages. Since then, I’ve continued collecting and researching languages. Currently I have worked with 53 languages of Twin Cities’ residents.



“Two of my large paintings using the languages and hand tracings were exhibited in 2015 in ‘Made Here,’ the store-front display project on Hennepin Avenue.

“I work between projects, using Sheetrock that is reclaimed. It is a marginal material. It has value and it has no value, it’s important for building shelter but not as home decoration. It offers duplicity, of attraction and repulsion, amazement and distrust, and it allows me to play with that tension in my art. I prime it, paint it, then stencil or draw on it. It allows me to experiment freely without the mental restrictions that arrive with clean canvas or clean paper. The experimentation often leads to new and interesting discoveries.”

Loretta Bebeau is a former President and Board Member of Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association. She exhibits her work locally and nationally, notably The Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., and The Armory Show in New York, NY. Bebeau participates in open studios on First Thursdays and Art-A-Whirl. Visit her at the Northrup King Building #343 and at: <http://lorettabebeau.com>

Artists can point up political irony and history

by Josh Blanc

If you have been on social media in the past few months you will have noticed a huge uptick in political posting. Gone are cat videos and what your friends are having for dinner. We are at a serious time in our cultural history as Americans.

Politics and art have been intertwined for most of human history, documenting war, social experiences, love, suffering and religion.

With social media’s skyrocketing success over the past 10 years, art expression has amplified too but it is also very fleeting...art viewed through scrolling in one-second bytes. It has become a struggle to stand above the feed.

One strong concept has been Aldo Moroni’s valiant stand with “The Wrath of Vanity,” also known as “Trumpotopia.”

Aldo, a veteran of political art and a long time Northeast artist is wielding his skills as an artist and political wit to the Arts District stage and beyond.

For those seeking to have a voice



Aldo Moroni, left, and an accomplice, auctioned off the Statue of Liberty and other choice pieces of Trumpotopia March 3. They then shook the table, tumbling more details. (Photo by Margo Ashmore)

in political society with art, visiting with Aldo would be highly recommended. His 40-plus years of activism in art history, culture and dynamic political art happenings are what legends are made of. He challenges and chang-

es minds with art, not espousing his personal ideals but giving a historical perspective on power and its abuses. The closing event for his show, labeled an impeachment, was held March 3. Look for it...on Facebook.

Briefs and Kudos:

• Northeast artist Chank Diesel was interviewed by Minnesota Daily. Many companies utilize his fonts including Cartoon Network and PBS Kids. A recent client is Disney with Stan Lee’s “The Zodiac Legacy” books. Read more at <http://www.mndaily.com/article/2017/02/bolded-impact-of-chank-diesel>.

• Through March 26: A Group Show Introducing Three New Rosalux Artists: Betsy Alwin, John Gaunt, Jim Hittinger; and “Last Refuge” New Work by Eleanor McGough, at Rosalux, 1400 Van Buren Street NE #195, Minneapolis, MN 55413 in the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District. The gallery is open Saturday & Sundays Noon-4 p.m.

• Kolman & Pryor Gallery is showing “Sensitive Indicators,” new work by Betsy Ruth Byers; Artist reception Saturday, March 25, 7-9 p.m. in Northrup King Building #395, in the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District, through April 15. www.kohlmanpryor.com

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