

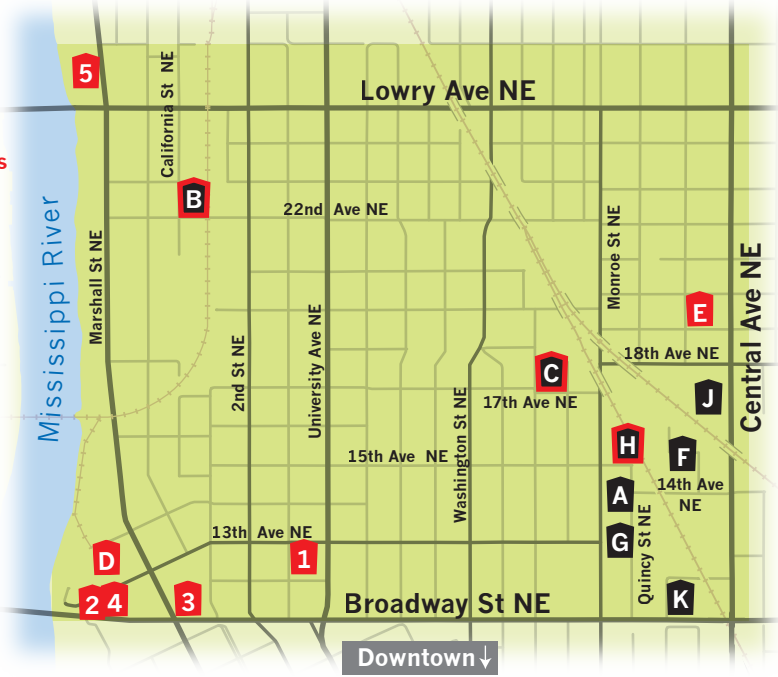
# Northeast Arts Insights

NORTHEAST  
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ARTS  
DISTRICT

The Arts at Work<sup>SM</sup>

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James Brenner, Dougie Padilla, and Aldo Moroni (Photo by Sarah Fuller)

The Northeast Minneapolis Arts District’s (NE MPLS ARTS DIST) 2017 Vision Award event was full of energy, with many artists and representatives of local businesses. Josh Blanc, President of the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District, described coming to Northeast Minneapolis years ago hoping to find a place where artists were congregating. He likened it to seeking a modern version of the French Artists Quarter, with vibrant, everyday interactions among creatives

## Vision Award Winners

who live and work in the area. This theme of the importance of individual artists in shaping the flavor and strength of the area pervaded the night, emphasizing the role of each creative artist in building the community we want.

Guest speakers Olga Viso, Executive Director of the Walker Art Center and Cameron Keith Gainer, Conceptual Artist and Publisher of The Third Rail, talked about their move to Minneapolis from New York and Washington, DC when she came to the Walker. They sought a vital art community that would both support their work and provide varied creative opportunities, and found it in Northeast.

Videos about each of the recipients provided a glimpse into their work and beliefs about the importance of creative contributions. The recipients for 2017 were Aldo Moroni, James Brenner, and Dougie Padilla.

The full videos will be available at [northeast-minneapolisartsdistrict.org](http://northeast-minneapolisartsdistrict.org) and on the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/northeastartsdistrict>

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**Aldo Moroni** has been in Northeast since the beginning, and finds great value in being able to be a link in the chain of artists. He enjoys advising younger artists and gets a big kick out of belonging to the neighborhood.

**James Brenner** uses his public sculptures to bring artwork into the everyday lives of the area, including a current project of creating a body of work in Jackson Square Park that allows for a dialog to exist between the pieces.

**Dougie Padilla** claims that, despite his label as a prolific artist, he simply spends all of his time in the studio. Being in a place where others speak the same language is necessary and he hopes that he helps to bring the District forward for others as well. He described the District as entering middle age, having grown from the gangly youngster it was when he started.

Leaders are important, as are our patrons and all of the participants in events like Art-A-Whirl®.

## Mid-Career artists open during Art-A-Whirl®

**Recommendations by Josh Blanc**

When studios open for Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association’s (NEMAA) Art-A-Whirl® May 19, 20, and 21, visitors will not only see a variety of art styles, but also artists who may be early in their careers,

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Teri Bloch: Connected Divided, and Pink Street. Lynn Speaker: Day Lilies

all the way to those who make their art mostly for commissions and projects but who do want to relate to the general public. Here are a some of the recommended mid-career artists, whose studios are in the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District:

**Teri Bloch in the Northrup King Building:** Teri Bloch paintings are a showcase of city life in its simplest forms. “Observations of everyday people, what is exposed through body language and the body’s relationship to the environment reveals more about our shared human experience than the full knowledge of individual stories,” she states. Her paintings are quiet and don’t scream at you to view them. They are reflective moments and studies of flat shape relationships, composition and division of space. Teri’s work are gems of the highest quality collecting one of her pieces should be a top priority this year.

**Lynn Speaker, in the Grain**

**Belt Bottling House:** Smoke fossil-like forms from the woods have been a special fascination of Lynn Speaker’s work. Her studio is full of wonderful collections of found objects of nature and geology. Essence of their being is what Lynn is able to pull out of the vegetation she burns, creating fascinating ethereal images that draw the viewer in. Her love of the charcoal blacks, whether it is from smoke or charcoal drawings are fabulous and sensual. It’s tempting to stare at them forever.

**Lisa Elias, in her solo studio near the Waterbury Building:** Working in Northeast for 20 years and participating in Art-A-Whirl® every year, she shows off her elegant metalworking skills that define her at the top of her field. Most Twin Citians have most likely seen her public art around the city from tree grates, drinking fountains, benches, stop signs, outdoor gates. Her style is instantly recognizable flowing

with long lines of elegant forms from leaves to expressive shapes. See how she creates this metal work in her minimal classic metal studio.

**Eleanor McGough, in the Northrup King Building:** Paintings of patterns, and creatures made out of paper in cut-out installations explore our fleeting place in the vast patterns of weather, migrations, and time. Imagined life forms inhabit terrestrial, aquatic, or atmospheric spaces, revealing fragile and tenuous relationships within these complex systems. If you have not added one of her works to your collection it should be highly considered. Finding only one is the hardest choice.

**Art-A-Whirl® is an open studio tour in Northeast Minneapolis showcasing the work of NEMAA members. Art-A-Whirl® is a federally-registered trademark of NEMAA.**

NEMAA Artist Catalogs are now available through the art buildings and other locations.

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