**Northeast Arts Insights**

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**du monde: Master glass class transcends**

By Margo Ashmore

Although not generally linked to arts, winter wheat and geography played an important role in shaping Minneapolis’ creative economy. Early in the 20th century the region became a major sub-economy of winter wheat production. Some of the sub-economies in photography, arts, and makers coalesced to form arts organizations and activity. An educated workforce was needed to support the arts, and populated this realm of graduates from area universities, and fostered numerous creative sub-economies in photography, film, music, and design. The geography of winter wheat production also prompted self-sufficiency. Located outside Chicago’s sphere of influence, remoteness ensured deeper ties to diverse background and approaches often work toward the same goals. Foci – Minneapolis Center for Glass Arts (2010 E. Hennepin Ave.) organized the French American Glass Exchange, and Potekglass partnered. The French artists working in different aspects of glass showed and sold their work at the Stone Arch Festival June 16-18.

**History of Winter Wheat and Geography**

By Margo Ashmore

Early in the 20th century the region once wrote its own unique story. Unlike the hulking heavy industry edifices found in Detroit however, these smaller spaces held the potential for adaptive reuse. When smaller manufactur- ers failed to rematerialize the industrial elements of property owners, artists and makers coalesced to adapt spaces to the needs of the still growing creative economy. The legacy of winter wheat and geography remains relevant. The region is still embedded in food production, and small labor needs endure. The region is dependent on producing and attracting creative labor, and creates continue to seek unique work spaces. The sustainability discussion is more relevant than ever, since the revitalization narrative suggests creative investors seek swet equity in transforming moribund spaces, but are pushed out along with longtime residents as demand and property values increase. Maintaining and expanding smaller-scale, flexible spaces such as those found in the studio buildings and other underutilized industrial and commercial buildings in Northeast however, would ensure the tenure of a necessary creative skilled labor force, and the continued growth of the creative economy.

**Jim Stanton, NK Building**

Jim Stanton has passed away at age 81. In a 2014 video commemorating his induction to the Minnesota Real Estate Hall of Fame, he talked about how Keith Harstad asked him if he could buy 780,000 square feet for $2 million. The project, the Northrup King Building, Stanton said, “was the only project I ever had that had no mortgage on it and still lost money. Subsequently, my daughter Debbie runs that.”

Debbie Woodward has managed and expanded the improved space in the building, promoted events with hundreds of artists, art-related businesses, entrepreneurs and non-profit organizations. She went beyond, getting involved in the neighborhood and the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District. She was a driving force and huge backer of the organization’s website, signage and other efforts in the formative days. In the video interview Stanton reflected on the work ethic and business ethics his father instilled in him, and it’s clear he did the same for the next generation. Thank you, Jim and Debbie.