

# Northeast Arts Insights



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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.

## Pete Driessen: Monumental achievement

**by Josh Blanc**

Pete Driessen has achieved a milestone set of art works called “Trestle Support Systems.” Pete Driessen (in left photo) is a long time Northeast artist with a studio in the Casket Arts Building. He worked in collaboration with Northeast sound artist Michael Flora with help from a Minnesota State Arts Board Artist Initiative grant, and went to a huge rail yard complex in Brainerd, Minnesota to accomplish it.

A massive 180-foot long by 18-foot wide “Trestle” was made of simple material—rough sawn red pine beams and metal hardware—in the Blacksmith Shop.

Another installation, the “Trestle Workers” in the Boiler Shop (photo at far right), are 8-feet high and in a formation 60-feet by 35-feet. These are stunning works that make you stop in your tracks at the Northern Pacific Rail Yard site (NP). The NP is a site over which most artists would drool with excitement and envy to be able to create and have a show of work in this type of space.

Trestle Support System’s simplicity and immense size was bracketed by Michael Flora’s sound installation reverberating in the massive 50,000 sq. ft. railroad Blacksmith Shop building, with its 20-foot high



side walls and 80-foot wide cross span and concrete floors, which all set the stage for this immersive work.

When walking in, the viewer goes through many stages of understanding of what is going on—from the size of the sculpture installations to the architectural building itself, to the eerie yet familiar sounds constantly changing from a four point surround sound speaker system created by Flora.

Flora sampled the transformer hum in the building and built a symphony of sound that can give the im-

pression of a railroad workstation in motion but with no obvious sounds one can point to. The three components work harmoniously together as the viewer can walk around and through the 180 foot Trestle. Their project was supported and presented as part of Here & There: Rethinking Public Spaces, with The Soap Factory 2017 public programming. The show was up from October 25 to November 4.

Driessen has taken an incredible leap with this project for his portfolio and career. He has always been a very contemporary minded artist



working to push the boundaries of art. This piece took nine months of planning, and three months and a staff of many to build and coordinate this project. We at the Northeast A.D. hope this type of artwork by Driessen and Flora is a catalyst and gives license for other artists in the Northeast A.D. to think big and deliver on monumental artwork. Driessen is knocking on the international art door for all of the Arts District artists and we need to respond with support, congratulations and a new challenge to make work at this level. **Photos by Makeen Osman**

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**Congratulations to Marko Fields**

The Audience Choice winner at the recent AutumNE member art show of Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association: Ceramic artist Marko Fields, “Fukushima Tourist Ware Set.” It was pictured in the *Northeast* November 1, page 24.

Fields is also an owner of Mojo Coffee Gallery in the California Building.

**NE Calendar**

The Northeast Minneapolis Arts District (Northeast A.D.) facilitated the judging for the free Northeast Calendar, available soon at participating businesses listed on page 10 of the Nov. 29 *Northeast*.

The calendar is a project of the Northeast Community Development Corporation (NECDC).

Northeast Arts District Board members Jennifer Young and Nick Harper were recently added to the board of NECDC, along with community members Remo Campopiano and Margo Ashmore.

**Mike Schardin joins the Northeast A.D.**

Mike Schardin, Chief Happiness Officer of Magnum PR, has joined the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District Board of Directors. He and Damian Kussian won an Upper Midwest Emmy Award for producing a montage about Art-A-Whirl. No stranger to business and non-profit leadership, Schardin founded the Young Professionals of Minnesota, and served on the board of the MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce and as a council member for the Workforce Center, each for six years. He is a board member of the Phakamani Foundation. His work has taken him on many travels. Locally, Mike is the friendly face of the Solar Arts Building, the public relations/building manager. Schardin said, “I’m excited about all this creativity. This arts district is special in so many ways.”

**NEMAA: Workshops, Art-A-Whirl and more**

Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association scheduled a session on legal issues November 27; offering general information about intellectual property, contract basics and structuring and artistic business, trademarks, insurance, taxes, and best business practices. It was part of a series of professional workshops to help artists develop and manage their careers, presented by Springboard for the Arts, and part of the Work of Art: Business Skills for Artists series. More info at NEMAA.org.

Before you know it, NEMAA will be starting its membership year for participation in Art-A-Whirl. Watch NEMAA.org for information.

**Solar Arts Holiday Open House**  
Dec. 7 5-9 pm | Shop local & independent artists, crafters, designers  
Dec. 8 5-9 pm | 711 15th Ave. NE  
Dec. 9 12-9 pm | Make a small donation to help fight hunger in Minnesota

**LIGHT UP THE NIGHT**  
...Light up a Life

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**Northeast A.D. wants to highlight your artistic achievements.**

Email [Margo@MyNortheast.com](mailto:Margo@MyNortheast.com) or talk to Josh Blanc at Clay Squared

**The Anchor Fish & Chips**

302 13th Ave NE (612) 676-1300

Open Tue-Th 4 - 10pm  
Fri 4 - 11pm  
Sat\* 10am - 11pm  
Sun\* 10am - 10pm  
Closed Mondays

\*Breakfast only Sat & Sun from 10am - Noon

**DANCE BARRE**  
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OPEN MONTHLY SECOND SATURDAY | 11 to 4  
2205 California St. NE, MPLS  
[californiabuilding.com](http://californiabuilding.com)

**Holiday Marketplace**  
@ **casketArts**  
Saturday, Dec. 9th  
10am - 6pm  
681 17th Avenue NE  
[casketArts.com](http://casketArts.com)