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 longtime 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 railroad yard complex in Brainerd, Minnesota to accomplish it.

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

Another installation, the “Trestle Set.” It was pictured in the November 1, page 24.

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 symphony 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 impression of a railroad workation 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 can attract this project. We at the Northeast A.D. hope this type of artwork can attract

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 Phahamani Foundation. His work has taken him on many travels. Locally, Mike is the friendly face of the Solar Arts Building, the public relations and marketing 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 2018. To help with administrative issues, NEMAA is holding a free Northeast A.D. hope this type of artwork can attract...