idealistic wrench styled bench as a homage to all the people who worked on the Milwaukee Road Railroad system. This is one of the railroads that built Minneapolis and St. Paul by providing transportation of Midwestern passengers, culture and goods to the rest of the world,” said Kyle Fokken. “Special thanks to the fabulous fabrication folks at Sign-Minds and Solid Metal Arts, the City of Minneapolis Public Art, its Public Works Department, and public art director and staff Mary Altman and Ann Godfrey.”

“I designed this curved loco-motive wrench bench styled with the repetitive, stacked arrangement in a silicon crystal. Yellow and green elements represent the positively and negatively doped areas of the silicon that form transistors. Orange and blue linear elements outlined with gold and gold respectively, represent the metal connections between transistors.

“Wrench Bench” is made of stainless steel diamond plate, polished stainless steel plates and tubes combined with corten weathering steel. It’s permanently affixed to the sidewalk near 29th Street and Bryant Ave S in Minneapolis.

The bench consists of a curved double headed wrench, in between two “bolts” which form the supports for the bench. The piece is a bit of a paradox, it looks like the wrench tightening the bolts, but since each bolt blocks the movement of the wrench, the “tightening” of either bolt will never happen. This is a tension or even stress that exists between the two.

With all the changes that have happened to the neighborhood since the railroads (and Minneapolis) were built, there is an irony in that the railroad that once carried passengers, culture and goods to the rest of the world, now is supported by the rusty historical parts.

Current building work is going into business as a gallery, which in its 139 existence, has been a thing of beauty and art for visual artists and art lovers Northeast Minneapolis. Thanks to the early years of hard working visual artists and art lovers, Northeast Minneapolis is now one of the most vibrant and beautiful neighborhoods in the country. This success encouraged Christopherson to go into business as a gallery, which in its 139 years, has been a thing of beauty and art for visual artists and art lovers.

This is the first of two pieces Fokken will be installing on 29th Street South between Bryant and Lyndale Avenues. They are his first public art pieces for the City of Minneapolis.

Fokken’s studio is in the Casket Arts complex, not far from his Northeast home.

Kyle Fokken’s Wrench Bench

Kyle Fokken was one of four emerging artists selected to create designs for public artworks to be integrated into West 29th Street (Lyndale to Bryant Avenues South in Minneapolis). He has completed the first part of the project, “Wrench Bench” is made of stainless steel diamond plate, polished stainless steel plates and tubes combined with corten weathering steel. It’s permanently affixed to the sidewalk near 29th Street and Bryant Ave S in Minneapolis.

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