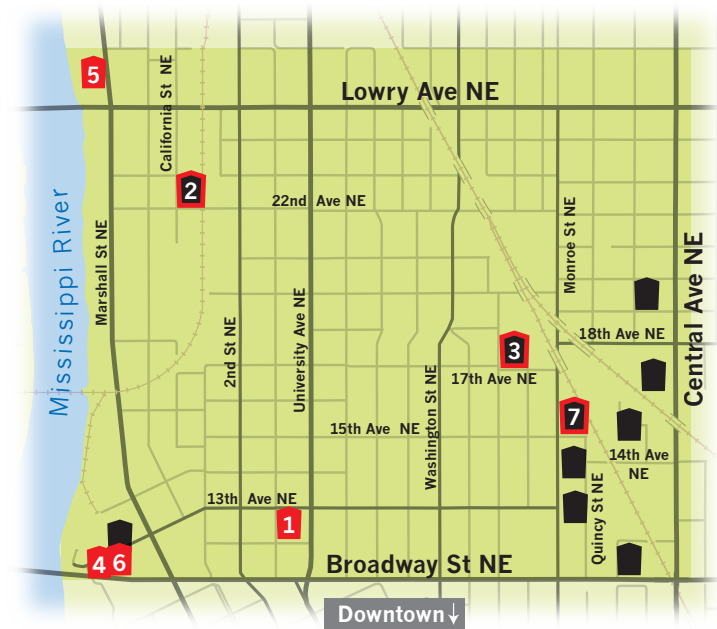




# arts INSIGHTS

A page about artists and The Arts at Work by the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District in collaboration with the Northeast.



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## Art calendars available at businesses

The free Northeast Calendars are available to pick up at businesses listed at [www.northeastcdc.org](http://www.northeastcdc.org).

Northeast Community Development Corporation, fiscal agent for the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District, worked through independent local jurors to choose images representing Northeast Minneapolis' 14 neighborhoods. The piece covers December 2018 to January 2020. The artists: Josh Mortenson (2), Mark Peterson, Michael Anderson, Karen Kraco (2), Jason Jenkins, Loretta Bebeau, Alex Schlee, August Schwerdfeger, Kara van Wyk (cover), Patricia Canney, James Nutt, Jonathan Mortenson.

The quality and diversity of images and art mediums is spectacular, and a matte finish makes it writeable.

## Ceramic educators conference will show off the NE Arts District

The National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts will hold its 53rd annual conference at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The annual NCECA conference is the world's largest event held in the field of ceramic arts, with 5,000 people attending March 27-30, 2019. It will feature more than a dozen

ceramic exhibitions as part of bus tours in the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District.

The conference will expose creative people and teachers from all over the nation to Northeast Minneapolis. It will also bring some of the best ceramic work from around the region and the country here for residents and fans to enjoy.

Watch for more info on how to attend, in March at [www.northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org](http://www.northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org).

A short list of galleries/studios on tour in the district: American Craft Council, 2001 A Space, California Building (multiple exhibits) Mojo Coffee Gallery, Clay Squared to Infinity, Minneapolis Clay Collective, Northrup King Building (multiple exhibits), Q.arma Building, and Water Bar. In greater Northeast, Continental Clay and FOCI Glass.

## Photo Center moving to the NE Arts District

The Mpls Photo Center is moving from 2400 North 2nd St. to 1828 Jefferson St. NE where their website says they will be back in operation with studio rentals, digital lab, digital printing, exhibits, classes and workshops Wednesday, Nov. 21. New black-and-white darkrooms are slated to open December 15.

The Mpls Photo Center is a gallery open to the public as well as a place for classes and cooperative creative space for members and general public. Watch for updates at [www.mplsphotocenter.com](http://www.mplsphotocenter.com), call 612-643-3511 or email [info@mplsphotocenter.com](mailto:info@mplsphotocenter.com).

## Artists Who Teach

January's Pecha Kucha will feature Artists who Teach. This fast-paced format has artists show and explain work in 20 slides 20 seconds each, followed by audience discussion and questions. ArtForce will host the event Sunday, Jan. 20, 6 p.m. at 1400 Van Buren St. NE.

The Pecha Kuchas are a signature event of the district's HATCH committee, dedicated to assessing and filling the need for an arts center, whether in a physical space or online. For example, is there demand for centralized advertising and sign up for arts classes?

To express interest, go to [hatch-arts.org](http://hatch-arts.org), or subscribe to the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District's e-newsletter at [www.northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org](http://www.northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org) and use its link.

# NE sculptor Kordula Coleman's art figures prominently in La Doña Cervecería

by Cynthia Sowden

A Mexican Day of the Dead ceramic figure by a German sculptor who lives in Northeast's Waite Park neighborhood is the centerpiece of Minnesota's first Latin American brewery in the North Loop, La Doña Cervecería, 124 Fremont Ave. N. Kordula Coleman was commissioned in May to produce the sculpture which now adorns the brewery's taproom. It was a challenge for the sculptor, who had attained journeyman status in a clay studio in Germany but had never produced anything as big as the piece for La Doña. "That work was for the masters," she said.

Blame it on James Bond.

She was inspired by the 2015 Bond movie, "Spectre," which features a Día de los Muertos parade. "I was mesmerized by the figures and captivated by the colors," she said. "I like the strong colors and the ritualistic aspects of the holiday." She said she appreciates how Mexican people "come closer to the spirit of the dead through photos, candles and ritual. That really resonates with me."

She made a small Day of the Dead piece and sold it to someone. Soon, she was contacted by the brewery via Facebook Messenger. Could



she re-create her piece on a larger scale for display at the brewery? "I was really excited," she said. "[The commission] sounded too good to be



"La Doña" by Kordula Coleman. Closeup of painting the mask. Below, Kordula and husband Marc. (Photos courtesy of the artist)

true. It was a dream job."

It was a dream with some nightmare moments. It took three months of hard work to produce the piece, which stands 32 inches tall. Throughout the process, Coleman battled summer humidity, which made the clay tend to slump and increased the risk of cracking during firing. "I worried about it keeping its shape," she said.

"I could barely lift the skirt. It weighed 30 or 40 lbs. when it was wet. Now it's much lighter." She also had to take care when she checked the fit of the torso on the skirt, again for fear of cracking. "I

groped my way along," she said. "I wondered, can I really do this? I was very relieved when everything came out of the firing kiln and it had not cracked or exploded."

The result is La Doña (Spanish for "lady"), a Latina with flowing black hair and a sad expression behind her Día de los Muertos mask.

La Doña Cervecería is a public benefit corporation, similar to Finnegans in the Elliott Park neighborhood. Although it is a for-profit operation, it is also legally obligated to consider the business' impact on the community and society as a whole. The owner, Sergio Manancero, the son of Uruguayan immigrants, is intent on bringing the craft brewing experience to the Hispanic community.

Coleman attended the cervecería's grand opening in October and said the place was filled with people of all ages, from children to grandparents, dancing and mingling and snapping pictures of her creation. She said she often sees Instagram messages with La Doña in the background.

Coleman moved from Cologne, Germany, to the U.S. with her husband Marc in 2000. She said she is honored to support the Hispanic community with her work.



For Día de los Muertos, Meet Minneapolis hosted the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District in their Visitor Center at 505 Nicollet Mall during their First Thursdays luncheon November 1. Artist Gustavo Lira fashioned an ofrenda to Frida Kahlo, and displayed tiles and cards featuring cartoon skeletons honoring the Mexican tradition. Bread from Charito, a local panaderia, was also featured.

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