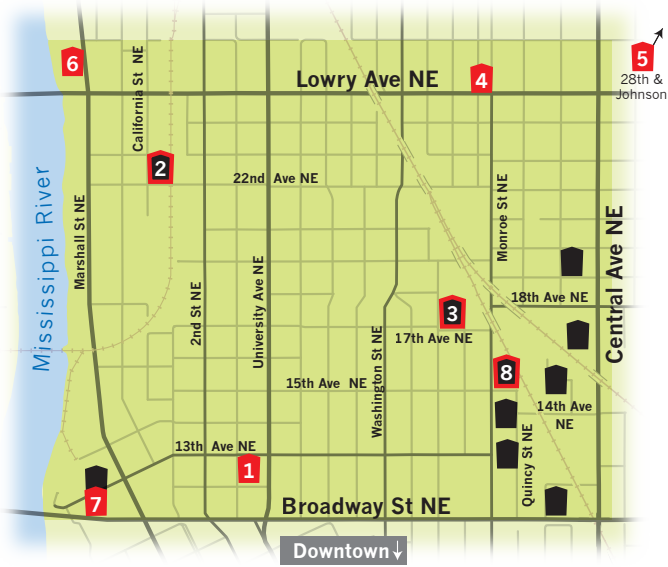




arts INSIGHTS

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



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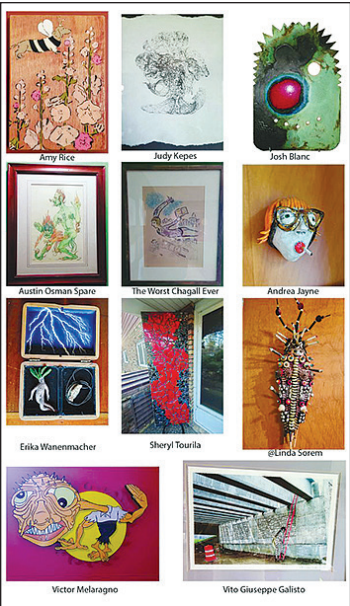
Sharing an art collection during ‘shut-down’

by Josh Blanc

Staying home, ordered to stay at home, working from home—we are all suddenly spending so much more time in the place we mostly take for granted. This has forced many of us to look again at our surroundings.

As so much business has moved to online interviews or Zoom meetings, we are all getting glimpses into the insides of other people’s homes. This has caused Marc Clements of Follow the Muse Studio to look with a fresh eye at the art that he and his wife Daphnae Koop have in their own house, collected over twenty years.

Marc told me he is “noticing that people who have no art on their walls are getting much more frustrated with the shutdown than people who have art displayed.” This has reinforced his belief that living with art is an essential part of being at home in one’s home. In addition to the beauty that original works bring to the home, both Marc and Daphnae believe, as artists and as



collectors, that artists leave an essential part of themselves in every piece they create—and that essence adds itself to the atmosphere in the place where it is collected.

For many years, Marc has done a ritual of Krampus postings every Christmas season. He has taken a cue from that practice, and has started a daily post from his art collection on Facebook. He is trying to present the idea that “Living with Art” is important, it beautifies our environments, and enriches us as people in ways we don’t always have language for. His sharing of this daily image showcases the artists that have created the work, at a time when any support is so necessary. It also shows the world that an art collector and art lover does not have to be wealthy or art educated—they just need to give themselves permission to collect what they love.

Masked ‘Max’ on the evolving trail

Mary Johnson’s sculpture, “Max Rabbitat,” has attracted much photographic attention since first landing on 22nd Avenue NE across from the California Building. On April 17, the sculptor added the social-distancing mask.

Coordinated by NE Sculpture | Gallery Factory, “Max” is a third entry on what will become the River First Gateway Sculpture Trail, along 22nd Avenue NE from Central to the Mississippi River, and along Marshall Street NE from roughly 18th Avenue to Lowry. Nearby in the yard at the California building are other public art pieces: Andrew MacGuffie’s “Bon Chance” and Peyton Scott Russell’s “Daskarone.”

Other installations on the River First trail are the James Brenner sculptures that grace the Edison High School campus and Jackson Square Park across the street between Jackson Street and Monroe Street; and JROW (in the planning stages), between Jefferson and Washington Streets NE, at the Hook & Ladder apartments on Washington Street and 23rd Avenue, with numerous sculptures on the grounds. The sculptors commissioned at Hook & Ladder Apartments, all artists from Northeast Minneapolis, are Lisa Elias, L. John Andrew, James Brenner, Aaron Dysart and Peyton Scott Russell.

The sculptors, with the support of NE Sculpture | Gallery Factory, based at the Casket Arts building, are working with the City of Minneapolis and private property owners who would like to host works along this route.

For more information, call: 612-743-6664, northeast-sculpture@gmail.com or www.ne-sculpture.org, www.facebook.com/northeastsculpture, @northeastsculpture



Sculpture and photo by Mary Johnson

ART365

by Mark Peterson

A visit to Emily Gray Koehler’s sun-filled studio in the Thorp Building found her in the midst of a printmaking project for an upcoming exhibition in Red Wing, Minnesota. The show would be the nineteenth annual Poet-Artist Collaboration, at Red Wing Arts Depot, a project that matches visual artists and poets in a kind of double-blind pairing; each artist gets a poem to work from, but the two artists do not meet until the exhibition begins.

On Friday, March 13, Koehler was printing from a woodcut she had made, called “The Field Years,” from a line in the assigned poem.

A Michigan native who moved to Minnesota a decade ago, Koehler and her husband live in St. Paul. Last year, she moved her studio from White Bear Lake to Northeast Minneapolis. She’s been making prints for over 20 years.

What none of us knew at the time was that this ART365 open studio afternoon would be one of the last chances, for a long time, for artists and audiences to get close up. The Red Wing Arts reception was adapted from an April 2 in-person event to a Zoom exhibition on April 24. A chapbook of the poetry and images is available for sale at <https://redwingarts.org/poet-artist-collaboration>.

Koehler, who had maintained a vigorous online presence even before the COVID-19 shutdown, also partic-



ipated in the St. Paul Virtual Art Crawl April 24-26 and will be in the NEMAA Virtual Art-A-Whirl®. And because her studio, like other artists’ studios, remains closed to the public and “nearly all of my in-person shows are either canceled or moving to virtual events due to COVID-19,” Koehler acknowledged that she will also be saving the direct costs of travelling to and participating in those shows. “Consequently, I would like to pass that savings on to my collectors as I attempt to come directly to you online.” Orders placed through <https://emilygraykoehler.com/> are 20% off and free shipping in the shopping cart, no code required.

Art in senior living

by Gabe Vespasiano

Art in senior living facilities does not need to be sterile or generic, and in fact can help achieve positive goals beyond pleasant decoration. A guide recently posted by Art Force illuminates these ideas:

- Art can make a residence or care center feel more like a home than a hospital. Mixing mediums, such as abstracts along with nature images, combats monotony and creates interest.
- Art featuring images of the surrounding community can be a grounding force for residents, especially those with memory or dementia challenges.
- Artwork from local artists can

help tie a facility to the surrounding community.

- Artwork created by the residents can contribute to a sense of belonging or ownership.

Art belongs in and beyond the lobby, from sculpture and such on the building’s grounds for the community and residents to enjoy, to even the medical-care areas. An art program can incorporate original pieces and lower-cost prints or framing methods in order to create a thoughtful realm within a reasonable budget.

Source: <https://artforce.org/guide-artwork-senior-living/>. For information, call Leslie Palmer-Ross at Art Force, 763-567-2205.

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