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 Daphna Koop have in their own house, collected over twenty years.

Marc told me he is “noticing that people who have no art at all in 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 human, and the insides of other people’s homes.

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 these images combats monotony and increases the world’s art presence even before the COVID-19 shutdown, also participating in the NEMAA Virtual Art-A-Whirl®

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 decor. 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 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 building. 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 a facility to the surrounding community.


Masked ‘Max’ on the evolving trail

Mary Johnson’s sculpture, “Max Rabitat,” 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-distance 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 MacGuire’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 JPOW (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 Casket Arts, are Lisa Elias, 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, northeastsculpture@gmail.com or www.ne-sculpture.org, www.facebook.com/northeastsculpture, (on northeastsculpture.org for more information).

Emily Koehler pulls a print on March 13. The ART365 program has moved online with no fees. Artists who know how to use Facebook Live or Instagram Live and want to set up virtual interactive ART365 events should contact Ginny Sutton at ART365@northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org or call 612-291-7375.