

NORTHEAST MINNEAPOLIS ARTS DISTRICT

arts

INSIGHTS

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

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Dyani White Hawk is Bemis Alumni winner

by Bemis Alumni Award Program

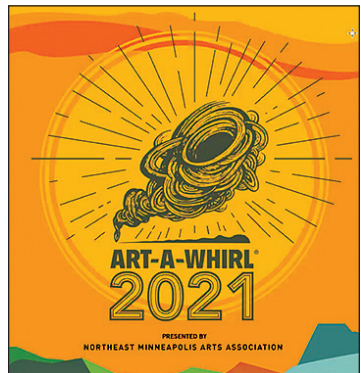
Dyani White Hawk (Sičǎŋǵu Lakota) is a visual artist and independent curator based in Northeast Minneapolis Arts District in the Thorp Building. White Hawk was a 2017–18 Bemis Center for Contemporary Art exhibiting artist in Monarchs: Brown and Native Contemporary Artists in the Path of the Butterfly. The annual \$5,000 unrestricted award is designed to provide financial support to increase the capacity of a Bemis alum’s practice. Funds may be used for any purpose and do not need to be tied to a specific project or body of work. This award is by nomination only and selected by a panel of curators and art historians.

The selection panel was captivated by Dyani White Hawk’s practice, both her take on abstraction through traditional Lakota techniques and her multi-channel video work, Listen, which showcases Indigenous women speaking their language in the specific region of its origin. “Bemis is extremely pleased to highlight and support the continuation of this important work with the 2020 Bemis Alumni Award. www.bemiscenter.org.

*Dyani White Hawk,
Photo by David Ellis
Carry II, Dyani White Hawk*



NEMAA ponders May event, they’re improving online shop



by Margo Ashmore

At their annual meeting February 23, Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association’s board and staff talked about

plans to support member artists in promoting even more robust online stores than they mounted for recent events, and to launch those improvements around the typical weekend for Art-A-Whirl®.

They reviewed some of the government guidelines for social distancing, and are leaving it up to artists and building management to figure out whether to be open and what hours, suggesting that visitors be asked to make appointments.

They also released statistics on the effectiveness of the online platforms.

Links to the various documents and the video of the Zoom meeting can be found in the version of this article that appears on www.northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org

Woodworkers’ custom art furniture makes statements

by Margo Ashmore and Josh Blanc

“People looking at art furniture are looking for something that makes their own statement, fits their physical stature or the size of their rooms, said Tom Schrunk. “It might cost more, but maybe not a lot more.”

In the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District, there are about 200 artists working in and pushing the boundaries of traditional craft media such as wood, glass, ceramics, metal, print-making, jewelry and fiber. We intend to highlight many of these genres over the coming months, starting with Arts District artisans working in wood. The genre includes wood frames, tables, chairs and cabinets, pianos, desks and full scale wall and sculptural art pieces.

To call Tom Schrunk a woodworker would be only partly accurate. “I think I have something to say with luster and light,” he said. He’s covered Steinway pianos in book-matched veneer and made a donor wall for the Minneapolis Foundation that springs to life as a tree. His tools are a straight edge and knives, as his art involves placing small pieces of wood veneer at angles to cause motion of light as the viewer passes the varnished finished piece.

An inventor, Schrunk also holds seven patents including one for the StopLossBag that keeps every last drop of varnish as viable as the first. (StopLossBags.com)

Schrunk is always up for something that makes him stretch beyond what he used to do, and enjoys working for a client who provides such challenges. He is currently envisioning a cabinet where the user presses a button, lights come on, the doors open and 6-foot wings arise. A friend is working on the mechanics.

Schrunk finds it “absolutely beneficial” to be in the Northrup King Building (NKB) in this area “put forward publicly as an Arts District. You can do any wacky thing and SOMEone will like it. You have to expose what you have, to countless sets of eyes. People come expecting there will be something interesting.” He added that especially with his work, online is no substitute for in-person.

Who does Schrunk look up to? “Michael Speaker is an absolute genius.” Speaker, a sculptor on fourth floor of NKB, worked on variations of his “Rhinoceros Desk” for many years.

Dodd Demas, Singing Dog Furniture, “has a marvelous sense of proportion,” Schrunk said, making Prairie School style furniture to fit the urban



Shown in the context of Thomas Schrunk’s simple tools and materials, The Wing on the wall is his newest piece.



At left, furniture by Dodd Demas.

Below, “Man with Briefcase,” one of Michael Speaker’s “Bureaucrats.” His sculptures contain working drawers.

Photos courtesy of the artists.

houses of that era, where commercial styles tend to be too big.

Demas also lists Asian and Arts & Crafts influences.

Go to northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org for links to discover these woodworkers:

Allason Owens SqRoot Woodworking
Blue Sky Galleries
Brenda Griffin Wagner – Canopy
Clark Bremer
Daphnae Koop
David Baer – Reveal Original
Kevin Showell Custom Sculpture and Wood Carving
Hossle Woodworks
Maxwell McInnis
Michael Speaker
Miles Taylor Future Framing
Scott Horne
Shannyn Joy Potter
Dodd Demas Singing Dog Furniture
Stangler Works
Steve Bailey
Steven McLoon, Patrick McMahon – Millennium Studio
Tiny Proctor
Thomas Schrunk
Twin Ignition Startup Garage – Craig Johnson



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