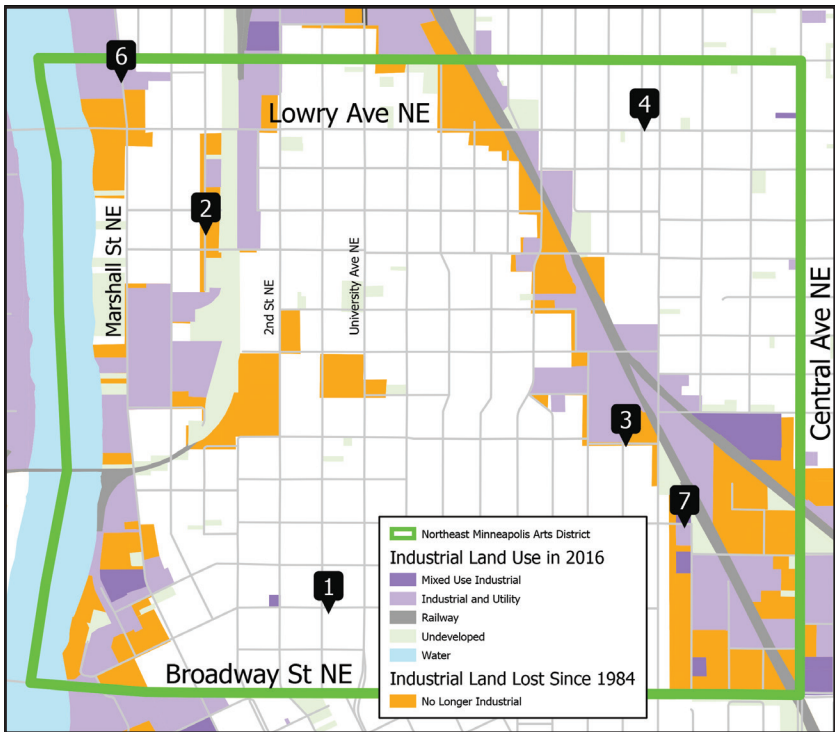


Using Geographic Information Systems software and publicly available data, University of Minnesota grad student intern Kenny Niemeyer created this version of our signature map, showing the locations of Arts Insights advertisers.

Since 1984, industrial land use in Minneapolis has been converted and developed for other uses. Across the entire city, the acreage of industrial land use reduced by 41% from almost 5,000 acres to just 2,900.



The above Northeast Minneapolis Arts District map highlights in orange land which had industrial use in 1984 and had changed to a use other than industrial as of 2016, the most recent data available. Over those 32 years, industrial land in the Arts District (outlined in green) went down by 53% from 228 acres to 106. The Arts District is studying the effects of the industrial land being repurposed at the expense of opportunities for artist and maker space. A full report will be available in September.



## arts INSIGHTS

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

Advertiser Key:

- 1 - The Anchor Fish & Chips
- 2 - California Building
- 3 - Casket Arts Complex
- 4 - Clay Squared to Infinity
- 6 - Siwek Lumber & Millwork
- 7 - Solar Arts

Also located outside the map bounds:  
Davis Law Office - 28th & Johnson  
Turbo Tim's Anything Automotive - 28th & Central, Michael Gacek - Edina Realty, Michael Rainville - candidate

# Mia visitors gripped by Barlow, Szychalski shows



by Josh Blanc

As a former museum guard, I can tell you most art works get a cursory couple of seconds notice. Rarely do people spend 5-10 minutes at each piece, reading and studying, discussing...but that's what I observed many visitors did during a visit to the shows by two local artists at Mia, the Minneapolis Institute of Art.

Leslie Barlow and Piotr Szychalski, who both work out of the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District, show some very timely work of what our society is going through both politically and culturally. Both shows have a variety of similarities, some coincidental, others collective conscience.

Both artists chose one size of canvas — Barlow's 16 life-size paintings at 60" x 48" and Piotr Szychalski's 225 posters at 20" x 29". Choosing one size can allow an artist to focus on a set space to create into and allow the variations to happen only within a constrained space.

Both have intense subject matter. Szychalski's stark black-and-white work is a direct political poke in the eye with a sharp stick. He takes on the response to COVID-19 by the government as well as society's racist and dystopian views pervasive in current popular culture (photo above right).

Barlow's work is more subtle, dealing with racial identity, a more richly patterned and colorful setting. People of many different races and ages are

looking at you, inviting you in. This challenges the status quo of subjects commonly encountered at art museums. Quoting Mia: "Comprised of both paintings and video interviews, the work shares stories of 16 Minnesotans who use the terms mixed race, multiracial, and/or transnational/transracial adoptee to identify themselves and their lived experiences."

What stands out in both exhibitions are the incredible skills both artists possess. The range of drawing, collage and painting skills are apparent with Barlow's highly realistic portrait skin tones (very hard to achieve) with many surreal and whimsical backgrounds. Many of the figures appear to be floating in a world of rich colors and sometimes real imagery of books or plants. Others with Matisse-like essenced line work inhabit ghost-like spaces. This is not common in portrait paintings.

Many painters are excellent at either realism or abstraction, rarely at both. Barlow blends these ideas in masterful ways. Her use of hot and cool colors in her backgrounds sets the stage for the intensity of the subject's portrait. For example in the family portrait "Sierra and her family, on the Mississippi shore" (photo above left) the family exudes love and tenderness. The collage of fabrics as backgrounds as well as her gestural painted lines with textures shows her sophistication and confidence in

her abilities to work both in two-dimensional and three-dimensional blending.

Szychalski's drawing offers such a range of design, it is breathtaking. Each poster has a different hand drawn font. Most graphic artists typically have one style. Szychalski showcase realism, patterning, propaganda art, graphic design, pop art, anatomical drawings, landscapes, many types of animals — buffalos, snakes, birds; lots of faces, hands, skulls — the list goes on. It is an incredible display of skills and deep psychological touch points, channeling our society's fears, anger, contradictions, and symbols. The use of common symbols of everyday objects is masterful.

Two full shows of local artists is very rare, if not a first for a major arts institution in the Twin Cities. Mia has had the Minnesota Artists Exhibition

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## Timber & Tie tour & RFQ



Members of a Northeast Minneapolis Arts District task force recently toured the new Timber & Tie Urban Apartments being constructed at 900 14th Ave. NE (a block west of Central), soon to be leased to persons at or below 60% of the Area Median Income.

Community amenities include a 5,000 square foot divisible maker's space which is for lease to one group or several individual or smaller group artists (right photo), and a 500 square foot gallery space (left photo). NE SCULPTURE | Gallery Factory will be administering a request for qualifications (deadline August 20, 2021) for artists or artist teams to



design, build and install public art including two murals, 200 feet of decorative fencing, bike racks and trash receptacles.

Link to apply at <https://ne-sculpture.org/public-art-commissions/>.

Photos by Margo Ashmore

## More online

Learn about Social Justice Billboard Project's latest billboards by Xavier Tavera and Tina Tavera, watch a video of Loretta Bebeau's creative process, and see how artist Reggie LeFlore is helping the city of Bloomington with a mural. All at [northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org](http://northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org) or delivered to your email inbox when you sign up through the website to receive the monthly Arts District News.

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