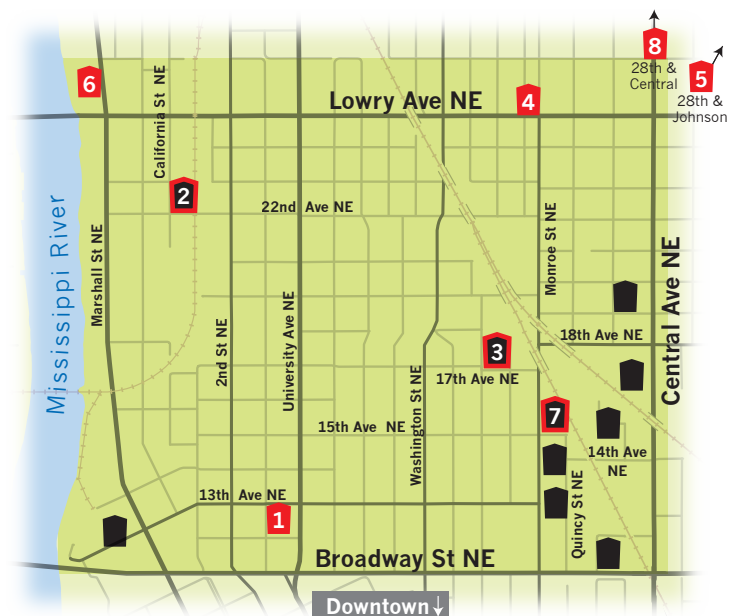




arts INSIGHTS

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



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If NKB's walls could talk...

by Margo Ashmore

The undeveloped buildings in the Northrup King complex, 1500 Jackson St. NE each present interesting challenges or opportunities. Northeast Minneapolis Arts District board members got a sneak peek tour May 24. Artspace is committed to maintaining the existing artist studio space in current configuration. Planning around redevelopment of vacant buildings is actively underway.

A six-story building sits at the end of the in-use dock level next to the building we now think of as Northrup King Building. It incorporates processing equipment too heavy and historic to move, and will have to be worked around.

Both the six-story building and a two-level building (pictured above left) are slated for housing, a pretty straightforward conversion in the lexicon of adaptive re-use, and includes

a one-level area lined with brick and a perfectly preserved timber ceiling. This area will likely become somewhat of a public art space.

Artspace has plans for "Stormwater Street" between the studios and the two level housing. It'll be key to managing rainwater that now puddles on forgotten pavement, a new outdoor space for art, history and play, for tenants and community. Initial funding commitments have been obtained from the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, City of Minneapolis, and State of Minnesota to help move the project forward.

Then there's Building #10 (upper right photo) with 37,500 square feet per floor; a dry basement, ground level and second story. It needs a new roof and enhanced electrical, and Artspace is exploring opportunities for large format arts production and creative industry space.

At the south end of Building #10 is what may be the oldest building in the complex. And to the north, a shed with doors on all four sides that cannot be practically permanently heated or cooled, which might simply serve as an outdoor market or performance venue.

Artspace has arranged to lease some railroad property to accommodate parking. Site improvements and the housing conversion will get underway in fall 2022. Watch the Northeast and NortheastMinneapolisArtsDistrict.org for updated timelines as they become available.

Meet Kenny Niemeyer, intern

University of MN graduate student Kenny Niemeyer will use his GIS (Geographic Information System) skills to help the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District's Land Trust Task Force catalog arts spaces, industrial uses and businesses in the Arts District, and meet with arts and industrial building owners. See more online at NortheastMinneapolisArtsDistrict.org.



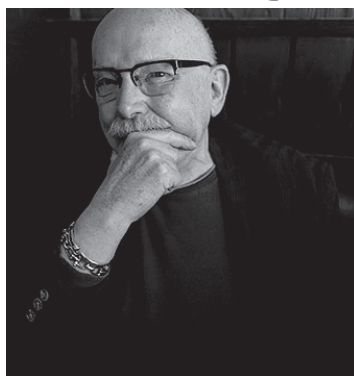
Strib cartoonist enjoys NE life

by Margo Ashmore

"What am I going to do, that no one else is doing? That's how I'm making a contribution to a community," LK - Larry - Hanson, said of his long-running gig at the Star Tribune, the "You Don't Say" single-panel editorial section cartoon. In it, he reminds people of time-honored quotations that offer wisdom for present-day. It sates his appetite for reaching a large audience.

Hanson is one of many full-career artists in the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District who don't expect sales to consumers, and in fact, are very private about their whereabouts given their renown. In the mid-1990s, he and a friend bought a duplex from another artist. His illustration studio is an enclosed back porch; there's a separate office room. Between them, hundreds of pencils, thousands of books.

The 77-year-old starts most days at Mojo Coffee with the newspaper and conversation among California Building artists. Recalling other late-career or famous artists who've camped in Northeast, he remembered Perry Ingli's tribulations in the early Art-A-Whirl years. "There are who-knows-



how-many artists who have a following but are not publicity hounds."

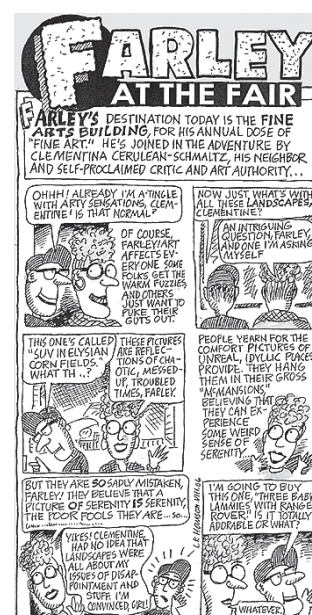
Gallery representation is fading in importance as artists rely more on social media, he said. Hanson will put work out on Facebook; not to sell it, but to make connections, to get people to say, "Oh, you're the person who does that!"

He's been all over the world; remembers sitting alone with only velvet ropes between him and the Mona Lisa (she's behind plexiglass with a constant crowd of tablet and cell phone cameras now). Locally, he shops at

Savers, enjoyed the Modern Café, goes to Elsie's because they were open during the pandemic, and loves Kieran's.

Hanson sold work at a holiday pop-up at 2001-A Space, and his image "Butterfly Artist" is featured on the June 2021 spread of the Northeast Calendar. But as the Northeast art exchange goes, he mostly enjoys being, as he is for the Star Tribune, the perpetual observer.

LK Hanson portrait by C. Pifman. Hanson's dyspeptic seasonal cartoons "Farley at the Fair" ran in the Star Tribune from 1989 to 2006. Selections were exhibited at the Modern Café in late August 2011.



Remembering Spencer Silver

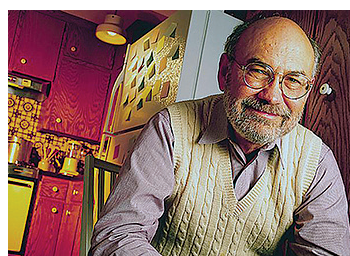
Described in the Casket Arts directory as a retired 3M chemist who has spent the last 30 years painting in acrylics and oils, Spencer Silver's latest multi-canvas floral and natural works featured ideas about the prairie. When he passed away at age 80 on May 8, we learned (if we didn't know already) of his fame as the co-inventor of the Post-it Note.

Silver invented the repositionable adhesive many years before colleague Art Fry put it to use bookmarking his choir music. Silver was named in dozens of patents and won many awards.

"Spencer was a Casket Arts early adopter, a tenant in Casket Arts since 2007," said building owners Jenni-

fer Young and John Kremer. "His kind and generous spirit was a quiet steady presence on the 3rd floor.... Spencer was always willing to strike up interesting conversations, and share innovative ideas for making the building work better. He loved his studio and he will be deeply missed by many of his longtime friends in the building."

An article on the 3M website describes "Spencer" as a mentor to others at the company, a trait in evidence as a member of the Northeast Minneapolis arts community. His work was also exhibited at the Bloomington Center for the Arts and other venues. He also loved to cook and travel.



Art-A-Whirl® survived 2021

Art-A-Whirl was a hybrid of on-line shopping and in-person experiences May 14-16 as artists and buildings did what they felt comfortable doing within health guidelines. Northeast reports are on page 9 and online at MyNortheaster.com. Anna Becker of Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association, which coordinates Art-A-Whirl, reports web traffic was about 26,000 for Art-A-Whirl

week, and a little less than 34,000 for the month of May as of May 25.

While not all studios opened, Northrup King Building asked visitors to register and enter during a set time frame, and could stay as long as they wanted. Those keeping count of the ins and outs at the door said there was a steady population of about 800 guests each hour for most of the time Saturday, and a maximum of 925.

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