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# INSIGHTS

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

# **Arts District to hold live** candidate forum Oct. 18

Northeast Minneapolis Arts District has invited all candidates for Minneapolis First and Third wards to answer arts and land-use-related questions in a live forum Monday, Oct. 18, 6:30-8:30 pm at the Solar Arts Building event space, 3rd floor of 711 15th Ave. NE. Major candidates have confirmed participation.

Audience questions on only the above subjects will be directed

through the moderator and may be submitted before Oct. 18 to info@ northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org or in writing at the event. The arts district strongly encourages masks for people who are in close proximity to each other during the event.

As a non-profit organization, the arts district will not endorse a candidate, but continues a history of providing informational forums







## **See NKB** plans Oct. 7

October 7, 5-9 p.m., First Thursday open studios at the Northrup King Building, 1500 Jackson St. NE, will feature a look at plans for site improvements. There will be live music by Mwago Kuria; traditional English pasties from Potter's Pasties; and a presentation by Artspace Rafala Green Fellows Shalom Cook and Pablo Lituma, who will share results from their Radical Asset Mapping Project in Northeast Minneapolis. The presentation will be at 7:00 p.m. in Gallery 332.

Announced NKB site improvements will include the addition of affordable live/work housing on campus, stormwater management, and more, revealed to the public through QR codes scattered throughout the existing building.

Masks are required in the building. Recently representatives of Artspace, owners of the Northrup King Building, toured three Arts District board members through two undeveloped buildings not seen before-the barrel-ceiling garage next to their picnic area, and the 6-story building with its 2-story loft potential. Breathtaking!



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# New gallery/venues/art buildings in the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District

Story and photos by Margo Ashmore

Four new art space concepts have emerged or are emerging in Northeast. Meet three of them (Holland Arts East to come in a future edition).

#### **TOA Presents**

Rob Sherer credits the pandemic with spurring him to do what he'd dreamed of for a while, opening a space at 655 19th Ave. NE where gallerists from other cities can expose the artists they represent, to the Twin Cities buying audience. People weren't travelling, and there's a hunger to see things in person.

Northeast is the area that's most directly associated as an arts area, he said, and felt lucky to find this space on his first trip to the area.

His business names The Orange Advisory and TOA Presents are nods to the orange tree in Sherer's back vard in California. Sherer lived in many places before Minneapolis, at first for a job in fundraising at the Walker Art Center, then staying upon marrying his wife who is part of a deep-rooted family business here. After leaving Walker, Sherer formed The Orange Advisory and began advising clients on acquiring art.

TOA Presents recently hosted a public opening for a group show for nine artists represented by Phillip Martin Gallery. The gallery space is in the back of the former Carter-Day building where an event center, The Whim, is getting ready to open. Art prices ranged from \$4,000 to \$15,000 for small to mid-sized works, and several had sold already

But you wouldn't know any of this from red dots or wall tags — there aren't any, and that's deliberate, he explained in a spirited discussion. Sherer plans to announce some rolling public hours soon, probably Thursday through Saturday, a couple of hours each evening.

Phillip Martin, gallerist from Los Angeles, said there's so much going on in the Twin Cities culturally and in visual arts, "a rising tide floats all boats." This is a great opportunity to see work in-person, and form relationships organically between the two cities' artists, he added.

Top photo: Rob Sherer talks with friends Gabrielle Grier and Roger Cummings from Juxtaposition Arts.

#### **DREAMSONG**

Nearby, 1237 4th St. NE, DREAMSONG is a multidisciplinary arts venue and commercial gallery situated on a small compound comprised of a storefront gallery, cinema, connecting courtyards, and an artist's residence. DREAMSONG is a flexible and adaptable home for contemporary art. Owners/founders Rebecca Heidenberg and Gregory Smith say on their website, "We intend to foster dialogue between the local Minnesota arts scene and the broader contemporary artworld by facilitating collaborations and building connections between artists, filmmakers, curators, and scholars."

At a performance event by Lee Noble, whose exhibit closed this past weekend, and Will Fraser, Heidenberg said they are loving the space.

Fraser told the audience of about 30 people (masked and vaccine-proven) that he was having trouble interacting because it's been so long ...

Coincidentally, DREAMSONG's next exhibition will be "In Search of Lost Time," with opening reception October 15, 5-8 p.m. Artists respond to how the COVID-19 pandemic has reordered our collective sense of time, leaving us stranded in a present steeped in temporal paradox and uncertainty. Works by Leslie Barlow, Regan Golden, David Goldes, Alexa Horchowski, Nathan Hylden, Shana Kaplow, Jovan C. Speller, and Panos Tsagaris.

Middle photos: Gregory Smith and Rebecca Heidenberg with Lee Noble's work, and night view outside the cinema in their compound.

### Q.armalita

The Q.armalita story started in 1989 when Jono Query rented a space at 1224 Quincy St. NE while an undergrad studying architecture at the U of M. Forecasting how

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development would challenge the warehouse district art scene, "We bought the building 18 years ago ... and began the slow conversion to a studio arts building," Query said. "We named it Q.arma Building for the self-evident notion of building good karma but it's also an acronym for Quincy street Artists Renegades and Madmen's/Madwomen's Association."

"In 2019 Kat Amjadi and I built Q.armalita, Q.arma's little sister, housing the design studio for III AD, our architecture and construction company, and our collaborative creative studio." A tiny "pocket" gallery at the front gives a visible presence to creative community. There are two makers spaces. Courtyard and parking space between buildings can be used for community events, outdoor art sales and performance space. It's even served as a stage set for filming a commercial needing a motorcycle mechanic's shop.

Rendering above courtesy of III AD.

