Public Functionary seeks arts center funds

Tritoa Heuring and Leslie Barlow of Public Functionary went before the Minnesota House Capital Investment Committee on March 31 to ask for $2 million dollars to create an art center in the NE Minneapolis Arts District.

You can watch the testimony on YouTube starting at 51:11 - HF4703 (Rep. Her) Minneapolis. Public Functionary community arts center funding provided, and money appropriated.

(Art screen capture from video)

by Josh Blanc and Remo Campopiano

Over the years many books have been written and published by or about artists who work out of the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District.

Photographer Sarah Whiting published “Open Studio: Faces and Stories of Northeast Minneapolis Artists,” with great images of artists in their studios and short stories based on interviews she conducted with them. Many are books on important shows that showcased their works long after the shows went down. PilÅ˚ Sya-hals’ Labor Camp Report book was a specialLucious book of all the images he created during the pandemic and government hypoxia. With the new series of sketch books being published by a new group of artists, they will have their work in print and collected in book form. These books sometimes can be seen as old fashioned in this phone-obsessed age there is something luscious when holding an art book with its tangible tactile images staring at you with all your attention.

The Arts District website will be working on a new page compiling these historic books and as new ones are published they will be added for posterity to show-case the works they produce.

ACW’s Noble Truths: The Art of the Flower

Each of these six individuals will be open to answering your questions about what it’s like to be a working artist today, and why they choose the path they did – medium, style, and a creative life.

First up: The Art of the Flower: Why Nature is Better Than Tinder, April 20, 2022, 6 p.m. 1500 Jackson NE, Studio 200. Host Jodi Padgett, a classical realism painter specializing in floral works, will open her studio for a discussion of technique and philosophy. Padgett seeks the remarkable in ordinary objects and everyday life – finding beauty in the quotidian. “Nature is often at the forefront of my subject matter as it is all around us and deep within us,” Padgett says. “My training focuses on artistic instruction passed from master painter to student, melding academic craftsmanship with the color and movement of the art school.”

Free but registration required, link in this article at: www.ne.minneapolisartsdistrict.org

by Josh Blanc

Over the past couple years we have reported on the vast expansion of the number of artists in the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District to 18 art buildings and 1,200 artists working within its boundaries. It is a validation to the 30 artist visionaries who created Art-A-Whirl® in 1996. Their idea of creating a self-suffi-

cient arts community has paid off in a validation to the 30 artist visionaries working within its boundaries. It is a testament to all those who have supported and been active for the NE Minneapolis Arts District for 25-plus years. “Gallery patrons relish Jodi’s enthusiasm and energy, and her passion for art,” said Kolman.

MSAB recipient

Loretta Simonet of Northeast was awarded a Minnesota State Arts Board Creative Support for Individual Grants. Her band, “Curts & Loretta” will release a new CD of original songs inspired by the pandemic and give three CD release concerts, plus a virtual concert.

Gudrun Lock: The Nature of Shoreham Yards

Northeast artist Gudrun Lock’s work is at the Target Studio for Creative Collaboration through May 15 at the Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota. Admission is free, info at wam.umn.edu.

This installation features the in-process work, research and explorations of a motivated group of thinkers and makers. The focus of these efforts are the buffers of an active 200-acre farm and trucking facility in Northeast Minneapolis, Shoreham Yards. Both polluted and full of life, this landscape is in dynamic ways with the neighborhoods surrounding them, and are potential sites of potential transformation.

Ready for influx of new artists, business

Jodi Reeb, co-owner of Kolman & Reeb Gallery

Well-known Minnesota artist Jodi Reeb has joined Anita Sue Kolman as a partner and owner of the newly renamed Kolman & Reeb Gallery. “With this change, you can expect a continuation of the best of past gallery activities, including contemporary art exhibitions from our gallery artists and from our new Project Space Grant Program,” they announced in a press release.

Reeb has been an artist and a sales associate with the gallery for over ten years and a full-time artist, curator, and teacher in Minneapolis for over 25 years. “Gallery patrons relish Jodi’s enthusiasm and energy, and her passion for art,” said Kolman.

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