

September 2018

Issue: 77

Greetings!

Welcome to In the District: news from the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District.

"How We Bloom", On2gallery Exhibition
Brenda Litman and Madison Rubenstein
September 6 - October 19, 2018



Brenda Litman "Familial Ties"

Brenda Litman is inspired by the forces of nature surrounding and nurturing our life journey. We are part of

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**KNOW
WHEN TO
GO!**

**VIEW OUR
CALENDAR**



[Check the Arts District Calendar
for events -](#)

or add your District event by
clicking [here](#)



nature, her seasonal cycles and interdependent plan. We bloom as we wend our way through her garden. All who live in our nation inhabit that garden forming a rich mosaic of entwined blossoms; the ethnicities, the races, the people who immigrated over time and built our country. In new work, Litman celebrates them and the hard-working people now aspiring to make our country their new home.



Madison Rubenstein "If I Could, I Would"

Madison Rubenstein's work is an investigation of how our mind and body relate to each other through trauma. She uses abstracted figure, color, shape, and line to refer to the physicality of being human and the history of what a body has endured, physically and psychologically. Through making images she is able to meditate on the strange and uncomfortable experience of inhabiting a body, and through this experience, she repairs the relationship she has to her own physicality.

Meet the artists in the gallery
September 8, 1-3pm
Brenda Litman and Madison Rubenstein

On2gallery California Building, 2nd Floor
2205 California Street NE
Minneapolis, Minnesota

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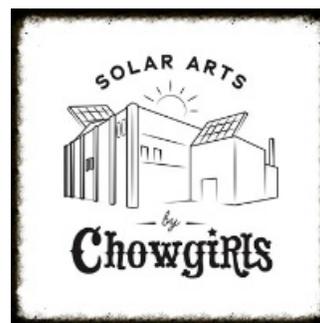


EAST OF THE RIVER.

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The Grapevine

Gallery Hours:

Gallery will be open for Second Saturdays September 8 and October 13, 11am-4pm

Also open Mondays-Fridays 10am-5pm or by appointment.

Artists on the 2nd floor will have their studios open and be on hand to meet visitors and discuss their work during the Second Saturday open Studio dates.

Free and open to the public.



In case you missed it Arts Insights page in the Northeasteer? [Click here to read](#)

CALENDAR

Featured Events

Art to Change the World event "See. Say. Do." is October 5-14

by Nick Cocchiarella

See. Say. Do. - What's Your Issue? A group of artists, many from Northeast Minneapolis, will be sharing their works at Art to Change The World's fall event, "See. Say. Do."

The event will be held at Squirrel Haus Arts in South Minneapolis on October 5-14, 2018, and will include performances, workshops and an art exhibit. Each artist and their team will present works covering a wide variety of social and environmental justice themes, from mental health awareness and cultural diversity to climate change and economic reform.

Here are the details on two of the presenting artists:

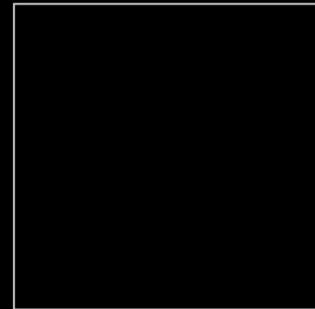
Craig Harris:

The Importance of Humanity

Craig Harris is a multimedia artist- who creates interactive performances and sculptural environments. He is heavily involved in the theater and dance scene as a composer and writer.



Harris's inspiration lies in the intersection between individual freedom and community responsibility. His connection to the art, however, is much more personal, having heard the stories of



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family members struggling with the Pogroms and being lost to the Holocaust. Harris became familiar with CTSD only last year while helping various family members raise money for their refugee camp in Bethlehem. "Through many conversations with them and others there I have been hearing how things have evolved through the generations," Harris writes. "This has been illuminating for me in understanding their experiences, and also in better understanding the experiences and challenges of disenfranchised communities here in the United States." Humanity, Harris writes, is the most important thing to learn from this performance. "It is important that we step outside of political biases and broad media representations to experience the reality of their experience, and to draw connections with things that are happening in our own society today."

Barbara Bridges: Open Every Door



Barbara Bridges in Studio

From her beginnings as an East Coast girl collecting shells on the beach outside her house to a scholar and professor at Bemidji State University, Barbara Bridges has spent her life putting old things together and giving them a new story. Her See. Say. Do. topic, recovery, reflects that mentality, as it focuses not on the negatives of any situation, but on the hope that it can, and will, get better. Her work a large, wood contraption of drawers containing varying types of totems is entitled "Today, I'm Alright." Having experienced trauma and recovery in her personal and professional life, Bridges had a lot of time to contemplate different healing strategies. "Because I've learned so much about this topic, I really feel as though I have an ethical responsibility to share what I know," she says. "Everything in this sculpture is a practical solution for someone who is suffering from trauma, or trying to recover from trauma." Prominent totems in the sculpture are sculpted objects of different shapes and sizes that Bridges calls "doorknobs," which she says are a satirical nod to twelve-step programs labeling higher powers as doorknobs. People have the option to take a doorknob home if they wish. "I ended up really liking these little doorknob sculptures; it's gonna be hard to let them go," she says.

All doorknobs aside, the one thing Bridges says people should take from her art is hope. Recovery, she says, is an involved transformation that takes time, patience, and a willingness to change.

Bridges said, "Recovery is way more complicated than Just Say



Casket Cinema

rosalux gallery



EAT MY WORDS
BOOKSTORE

Hatch to present to Developers



Sunday September 30, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Rogue Buddha Gallery, 357 13th Ave. NE, is the next NE Pecha Kucha 20 x 20.

Ten local artists will be showing images on the screen, with conversation following the short display. The theme this time is artists who create work that could be used as architectural elements. The public is invited to attend, with special invitation to developers to encourage them to use local artists in the projects they are planning in the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District.

The following artists are presenting: David Baer, Brian Billadeau, Josh Blanc, Lisa Elias, Reggie LeFlore, Jeff Lohaus, Dan Mather, Aldo Moroni,

Many Northeast-based artists show at the State Fair

By Margo Ashmore



Leslie Barlow's - Stephen Jeffrey and Twins

Leslie Barlow's "Stephen, Jeffrey and Twins" won three awards at the Minnesota State Fair, including purchase by the Minnesota Museum of American Art, White Bear Center for the Arts and Metropolitan Regional Arts Council awards.

Russ White: The ironies of coins and currency

Want to support the district?

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Neighborhoods Need You!

Artists are a big part of NE. Most of us have lots of opinions about what we want the community to aspire to buy to make those ideas come to fruition we need to be more involved with the neighborhood groups. Neighborhood groups have been some of the most supportive organizations of artists since the beginning of the artists moving to NE. Please take a moment to consider attending their meetings and joining their boards or committees. Below are the contacts for each neighborhood.



[Sheridan Neighborhood](#)

[Logan Park Neighborhood](#)

[Holland Neighborhood](#)

[Bottineau Neighborhood](#)

[Windom Park](#)

[Northeast Park](#)

[Audubon Park](#)

[Waite Park Park](#)

[Marshall Terrace](#)

[Columbia Park](#)

by Margo Ashmore

"I chose money because it's a funny thing. It has value but also asserts the moral values of a culture with bold statements, such as "Liberty," Russ White said, of his latest series of work, Local Currencies, which was on display through August at the University of Minnesota in the Coffman Art Gallery. A similar show, Loose Change, appeared at the Hopkins Center for the Arts earlier.

"Liberty is an ironic slogan for the nation with the highest incarceration rate in the world. I wanted to do work that makes us think about our values, about what actually makes us rich."

White started in 2014 using ink and watercolor to draw still lifes of paper money, crumpled. He found coins to be more simple and Spartan. "There's a magic to them, like time-stamped history."

The brain is attracted to shiny metal objects, but there's a humility in the denominations, "you see a coin on the ground, maybe it's not worth picking up." In a June 30 talk at Clare Housing arranged by Brendozone, he talked about his process, starting with images of people found online, graduating to photographing friends. He would do digital mockups in Photoshop, projecting reference marks to be made in charcoal and then connecting the dots. The current work is in colored pencil. He always starts with the nose; it has the brightest highlights and darkest shadows. The subject's birth year becomes the date on the coin.



Liberty colored pencil on paper 39x26
Bottom - Liberty Cuffs

He deliberately sought images of people whose bodily signifiers would be different from the white men on our coins. "Think of it, we're carrying around tiny portraits of slave owners in our pockets... There is a lot in our nation's history that shouldn't be celebrated, but reckoned with."

The "Liberty" image that won a second place in the NEMAA Fall Fine Arts Show 2016 is of a black woman.

"Our true values don't come through in our speeches or slogans, they do come through in our policies and our budgets."

White, himself a white man, said he was "self-conscious about not wanting to tokenize anyone," and during Q&A further explored the topic of "virtue signaling," using other people's identities to show how liberal you are. "Two-thirds of the way through the project, I realized every person was from the Minneapolis arts scene. It's a partial portrait of my community."

Eat My Words presents: Freaque, Adina Burke, Sagirah Shahid

Saturday, September 15th at 7:00pm

Freaque is the project of local musician and writer Gabriel Rodreick, also of the band Treading North. His art explores

ideas of radical existence, both in how we physically exist and the social, political efforts to corrupt that. Gabriel will be joined by spoken word artist Adina Burke and Sagirah Shahid.



Freaque

Adina is an individual who doesn't like talking about herself very much and instead insists on writing about herself. Born in 1990 with a sweet taste in her mouth for cynical and dry wit, such characteristics can be found in her work and overall demeanor. Much to her credit, she has found a way to make this seem incredibly endearing.

Sagirah Shahid is a writer, poet, and teacher. An African American Muslim Feminist, Sagirah has utilized her spoken word and literary works to build community and to advocate for positive social change. She has taught numerous creative writing workshops, curated social justice arts events, and currently serves as a community editor for the Saint Paul Almanac.

There will be a \$5 for this event.

Three Main Goals of Arts District Planning

1. Continue to discuss who we are as a community.
2. Continue to define the vision of the next 10 to 15 years, in order to drive the decision making.
3. Start a framework on how we can finance the goals of the district. This goal is only possible to discuss if the other two goals can be met.



Recent studies to consider reading: **The Arts at Work**

1. [The Creative Vitality Index 2015 Update. Click to read.](#)
2. [The Creative Vitality Index 2014 Update. Click to read.](#)
3. [Arts Districts & Economic Development study. Click to read.](#)
4. [The Minneapolis Creative Index 2013 Report. Click to read.](#)
5. [Arts Impact Survey & Report on Arts Activity within the](#)

District (2013). Click to read

The Northeast Minneapolis Arts District & the Arts District Committee is an outcome of the Arts Action Plan.

"The Northeast Minneapolis Arts District Committee is comprised of interested volunteer community members, and is fiscally managed by the Northeast Community Development Corporation (NECDC). Additional support has been provided by Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association (NEMAA), Clay Squared to Infinity, Northeaster News,
Want to get involved? [Contact us](#)