

Greetings!
Welcome to In the District: News from the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District.

Alyssa Baguss at the MIA

by Josh Blanc

Getting your work into an art museum is many artists dream. Making it while you are alive is even more exciting. Alyssa Baguss has stepped into that realm with her show at the MIA's Minnesota Artists Exhibition Program

Alyssa Baguss: You Were Never Here
November 21, 2019 - March 1, 2020
U.S. Bank Gallery
Free Exhibition



You Were Never Here

Alyssa says she is interested in creating immersive experiences that mimic the outdoors indoors through the lens of technology (satellite/lidar mapping data and imagery). She uses large photo murals, 360 degree wall drawings and other forms of installation to compare and contrast an abstraction of experience vs. tangible experiences. "I want my audience to feel like they are close but not quite there."

"The imagery I use is often slick idealized landscapes and objectified natural spaces void of human presence. I want to hook people into looking closer, then have them discover something deeper regarding my process and content. Despite using

In This Issue

[Alyssa Baguss at the MIA](#)

[Remembering Diane Loeffler](#)

[AldoThe Early days, history in NE](#)

[Sign up for Art 365](#)

[Events!](#)

[The Grapevine](#)

[Support the Arts District?](#)



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

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



[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Featured Sponsor

technological processes to create the imagery, I often use very labor-intensive techniques to execute the artwork. Whether it's meticulous folding, cutting, hole punching or drawing processes, I want to illuminate the conversation between the hand of the human vs the machine. The analog and the digital."

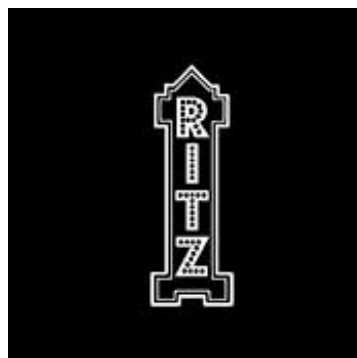
For the past seven years Alyssa has worked out of the California Building. She is not a typical artist in the Arts District. She does not show her work in her studio for community events. Alyssa says she never produces work to directly sell to a customer. Most of the time her practice is funded through grants, fellowships, artist stipends and/or out of her own pocket. Alyssa is passionate about collaborating with artists and creative organizations in the Twin Cities to develop ways to use art, art making and creative experiences to connect park guests with the natural world. She says in her Minnesota Original documentary that she makes work that she is passionate about and if it sells that is a bonus for her. Her art and her job inform each other.



Baguss's practice explores mediated natural environments through the drawing processes. She is a 2015 and 2017 recipient of the Minnesota State Arts Board Artist Initiative Grant and the recipient of the 2017/18 Jerome Foundation Fellowship for Emerging Artists. Her work has been exhibited at the Rochester Art Center, Minnesota Center for the Book Arts, and Minnesota Museum of American Art.

Remembering Diane Loeffler

from the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District Board of Directors



Interested in being a sponsor?
[Contact us](#)

The Grapevine



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

Check out our new
CALENDAR

Most of the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District board and spouses were gathered at the pass the torch event when we heard the shocking news that Diane Loeffler died. Stories and memories flowed. She happily participated in community events of all sorts, gravitating to art-making whenever it was offered. She worked hard to address the needs of her constituents, and that included advocating for arts in many ways. She bought art as gifts and to fill her legislative office as our State Representative.



Well before her first election, she was one of the earliest advocates of a community arts center, working on a model with others that had progressed quite far. Her vision was that it be a place that a non-artist would feel welcome, that art should be accessible to all.

Diane Loeffler's passing, Debbie and Paul Woodward's retirement, and Aldo Moroni's terminal diagnosis have reminded all of us to value each day and mentor the next generation. We don't always, in fact seldom, know exactly how to get there but often "when a door opens, go through it" leads to the answers.

Featured Events

Support the Arts District

[Donate](#)

Your donation is tax deductible!

[Become a Sponsor click here for more info.](#)

Aldo The Early days, history in NE

By Margo Ashmore



The Walker Art Center gave Moroni exposure in a group show when fresh out of MCAD, the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. An article on his tile work for the Federal Reserve noted that he arrived by train in 1972 from Chicago to attend the school. He'd been part of the artist community at a building

called the Skunkhouse immediately behind the Fed building. In a 1982 article in the St. Paul Dispatch, Moroni is pictured "balancing a son, a cigarette and a palette knife." The sculpture, in wax at that time, was "The Tower of Babel," its pedestal three boxes of empty Leinenkugel bottles.

By the mid-1980s Moroni was able to make a living solely through his art and even gave one-third of the proceeds from one show to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. "Art is often a completely closed and self-serving world," he told Mary Abbe Martin in 1985. "I think it is time to bring a new humanitarianism to the arts... people just have to take action. There's a tradition of alienation in the arts that's 200 years old, but there's a bigger 4,000 year-old tradition of artists being involved in society. That's what I think should be revived."



Aldo Moroni: M.EX Mesoamerican Experience and Legacy Makers

Aldo's been part of the Eastside and Northeast Minneapolis arts scene for a large portion of his 45-year career. His first studio after having to leave downtown was in 1986 in the Olson Building (which is now Q.arma, then an "industrial hovel") on Quincy Street, living in a Northeast apartment, in a relationship, having his first two kids.

He was working for Wilensky Arts in what is now North Loop, when he won several big foundation awards and moved out to Avon, Minnesota for a year. "My wife [Sarah] got fed up, so here I was packing my stuff up and back to Northeast. His studio ended up in the St. Anthony Main area, "an empty building almost to myself." A second marriage [Kim], a daughter, three more sons, and a home in Audubon neighborhood... eventually divorce.



Artist Aldo Moroni is in the midst of a participatory artwork that lets patrons take part in the development of Babylon. He sees artists in a similar role, as partners in developing Northeast Minneapolis, contributing their economic, creative, and physical presence.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JORDE.COM

TWIN CITIES BUSINESS MONTHLY, OCTOBER 2015 61

Aldo stayed involved in Northeast managing a gallery space at the California Building and working on his Babylon project. Growing up, his family was in restaurants, so "that was always the fallback," at any time there weren't enough public or private commissions, theater set projects or teaching gigs. "I could always tend bar. And my friends would come drink at my bar." Aldo now lives at the A-Mill lofts where The Journal writer Susan Schaefer dubbed him its "undisputed dean."

"It's my dream version of Minneapolis, really, all the way up the river; it's way cooler than the lakes," Moroni said. In 2016, shortly after the building opened, he organized a handful of other artists to join him in opening their residences to the Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour. The location topped the attendance charts. Anytime he's around, he'll happily give tours. Part of his joy at A-Mill is having his youngest, his twin adult sons with him.

In the early 2000s, Marcy Holmes neighborhood commissioned Moroni's series of 23 bronze sculptures, the 6th Avenue Stroll from University Avenue to Main Street, a project that took longer and a bit more money than originally budgeted. A Southeast Angle article quipped that the delay just made them more historic.

His "Mill City Dance" at the Cedar Riverside Light Rail Station was at first rejected and eventually installed in 2004 after a dispute over fabrication agreements was resolved. For approximately half of the artists commissioned for light rail projects, the process did not go as planned.

In 2017, Aldo received a Northeast Minneapolis Arts District Vision Award. Moroni reflected to his friends Nov. 1: "For me to be a part of this community, what a joy. It's a real community ... you build it, and if you don't buy my art, buy somebody else's art." In classic Aldo, he admonished, "but buy mine first."

In his Northeast interview, Moroni had this to say, talking mostly about the sentiment building for establishing an arts center, "To my neighbors in Northeast: take a chill pill, lighten up, move in one direction. If everyone were in a conversation, you could manage your own town. Don't get yuppified beyond recognition. The opportunity is on the plate in front of us. "What a gas, to be here. It's been a good ride."



Sign up for "Art 365" Today!



Art365 is a few weeks old. We have had many artists sign up but we have a long way to go to achieve the Arts District being open 365 days a year. This program offers both the public and NE artists the opportunity to visit artists studios. Having a guaranteed studio that will be open to explore the Art District is important for arts community to get behind to being a year round Arts District.

Thanks to the Early Adopters!

Lisa Elisa had over 40 people visit her studio

Rogue Buddha had a dozen people in.

Mercury Mosaics had 21 people come in throughout the afternoon including celebrity visitors during kick-off festivities November 1.

Sam Neisen from Exploration High School, was really jazzed about getting to participate in making the mosaic they did for Thorp Warp. It led us to incorporate making a cereal box mosaic at the event we're planning.

Justin Hossle, Hossle Woodworks at the Holland Arts Building had eight people for classes

Philip Hoffman sold a piece to a fellow artist who visited on Thanksgiving.

Patty Canney, Dona Kos or Emily Gray Koehler had artist stop by and visit there studios.

We've also seen an uptick in overall likes and activity on the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District Facebook since the program started.

Three choices Sign up Today!

Pick a day for \$50

or

Buy one get the second
half price

Get two days for \$75

or

Pick 5 days for \$100

Pick a day before the end
of the year and one next
year.

[Click here to download the form and sign up](#)

Pay by

PayPal or by check.

We want you to have your day in the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District.

For further info: Margo Ashmore, Northeast Minneapolis Arts District board member/volunteer at 612-867-4874.

ART365 ART365



The Arts at Work.

northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org

Check our calendar for daily featured
working artist studio location ...
Open Noon to 5 p.m.



The Arts at Work.

northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org

Check our calendar for daily featured
working artist studio location ...
Open Noon to 5 p.m.

ART365 ART365



The Arts at Work.

northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org

Check our calendar for daily featured
working artist studio location ...
Open Noon to 5 p.m.



The Arts at Work.

northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org

Check our calendar for daily featured
working artist studio location ...
Open Noon to 5 p.m.

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 2018](#)
[Click to read](#)
2. [The Creative Vitality Index 2015 Update. Click to read.](#)
3. [The Creative Vitality Index 2014 Update. Click to read.](#)
4. [The Minneapolis Creative Index 2013 Report. 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, Northeast News, California Building Co.

Want to get involved? [Contact us](#)