

PRESS RELEASE

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Public Artist Karl Unnasch Installs 40-ft. Sculpture Outside Rochester Art Center

ROCHESTER, MINN. — July 6, 2015

Minnesota-based Public Artist Karl Unnasch has installed a 40-foot-tall sculpture in front of the Rochester Art Center. The innovative piece is constructed of a welded steel framework inset with colored opalescent glass and is illuminated from within using a solid state LED system, which makes it visible at night from many viewing perspectives. This glowing beacon will be a colorful incorporation into a city with few established large public works.



Photo Credit: Cat Thisius

According to Unnasch, the artwork – titled *Burnt Matchstick* – captures a fleeting moment in time: the split-second after which a burning wooden matchstick has been extinguished by a gust of air. Metaphorically, he says, the form represents many things – the transformative power of an impactful event or the role of fire as a saver and destroyer, for example – while also being physically suggestive of the human figure.

Shannon Fitzgerald, Executive Director of the Rochester Art Center, states: “It is enthralling to relaunch our sculpture garden with such an awe-inspiring piece that serves as a beacon to our beautiful building, our inspirational community, and to all our visitors seeking a bright light. It is an honor to present Karl’s work, a renowned Minnesota artist, whose dream of seeing this realized is now a reality.”

Burnt Matchstick is scheduled to be on exhibit for one year at its current inaugural location in the Rochester Art Center’s Remick Sculpture Garden. De-installation is planned for June 2016, at which time the piece will likely find its way to other venues and will also be available for permanent acquisition. Parties interested in either hosting or acquiring *Burnt Matchstick* may contact the Artist directly.

Burnt Matchstick was made possible in part by a Minnesota State Arts Board Artist Initiative Grant and in part by funding from the Rochester Art Center. Its installation was organized by the Rochester Art Center and curated by Chief Curator Kris Douglas.

More images and details about *Burnt Matchstick* can be found on its Project Page at:

<http://www.karlunnasch.com/project-pages/2015.04-matchstick-fabricated-steel-and-stained-glass-sculpture.htm>.

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About the Artist:

Karl Unnasch's work has been exhibited as far as Europe and acclaimed in publications including *The New York Times* and *Art in London Magazine*. His work has been included in the *Public Art Network Year in Review* database by *Americans for the Arts* in Washington, D.C. and featured on the *TODAY* show; he has also been counted among the Artists of the Year by the Minneapolis *CityPages Magazine*. While continuing to exhibit, Unnasch today focuses primarily on public and architectural art. His work has evolved largely into three-dimensional stained glass sculptural installations of various forms. Over the last half a decade, he has installed notable works at prominent locations including educational facilities, medical wings, banks, theater lobbies and public gathering spaces. For more information, visit www.karlunnasch.com.

Contact:

Karl Unnasch, Artist
31314 Hwy. 30
Chatfield, MN 55923
507-272-0452
karl@karlunnasch.com
www.karlunnasch.com

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