

PRESS RELEASE

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Artist Karl Unnasch Installs a Worker's Ode on Boston's Rose Kennedy Greenway

Dump Truck with Stained Glass Is a Storyboard of Humans' Natural Ingenuity

June 9, 2019 – Boston, MA – Over the years, Artist Karl Unnasch has created a series of public artworks that tell the stories of local communities by illuminating the windows and panels of agricultural and antique vehicles with intricate backlit stained glass designs. His latest creation, based on a red dump truck, is a deliberate nod to community construction workers and laborers. Commissioned as part of *"The Auto Show"* exhibit – a 2019 public art exhibition on the Rose Kennedy Greenway in downtown Boston – the piece recalls the work put in to Boston's "Big Dig", a monumental project through which the elevated highway downtown was demolished and rerouted into a tunnel underground, allowing for the creation of the mile-long Rose Kennedy Greenway park.



Curated by the non-profit Greenway Conservancy, Unnasch's artwork is featured in *"The Auto Show"* exhibition as part of a year-long celebration of the 10th Anniversary of The Greenway recalling the demolished elevated highway. The exhibition consists of both loaned and commissioned works by nationally and internationally renowned artists that explore the form of the automobile and the imaginative qualities of construction and movement through ideas of transportation, as well as the ways in which our automobiles and highways reflect our communal history, values, and perceptions of the world. Alongside Unnasch's work in the exhibition are pieces by Austrian artist Erwin Wurm, Scottish artist Chris Labrooy, Texas artist Julie Libersat and others, including a state-of-the-art augmented-reality installation. "These installations truly celebrate The Greenway's transformation from an elevated highway to a contemporary public park," said Jesse Brackenbury, Executive Director of the Greenway Conservancy. Also featured on the Greenway this year as part of the anniversary celebration is a mural by Dutch artist SUPER A (Stefan Thelen).

Titled *"Operant (An Oldowonk Cataract)"*, Unnasch's work also goes deeper to reference the continuum of concepts influencing the human-built environment. Based on the principle that the foundations for problem-solving are innate, the backlit stained glass panels installed in the cab windows and along the sides of the dump box contain imagery depicting various forms of Nature's approach to 'building' and 'making', such as ants, beavers, wasps, chimps and elephants at work. Finally, a cascade of backlit chunk glass – reminiscent of flinty, primordial

tools – has the appearance of being dumped out from the back of the truck, eliciting the possibilities of design and construction.

"This exhibit responds to the ever-changing nature of what once was a major transportation corridor through downtown Boston, and invites the public to conceive new possibilities in reinterpreting our shared civic spaces," said Lucas Cowan, Greenway Public Art Curator. "Each of the artists in this exhibit brings a unique perspective on how transportation can reimagine and transform our unique cities for the betterment [...] '*Operant*' is a work that showcases Unnasch's mastery of stained glass construction and evocative folkloric narratives, fusing glass with the hardness and roughness of construction machinery."

"*Operant (An Oldowonk Cataract)*" will be on exhibit on the Boston Greenway until Fall 2019 and will be available for purchase or re-exhibit following the show. Interested parties may contact Unnasch directly.

More about the piece can be found on Unnasch's website under:

<http://www.karlunnasch.com/project-pages/operant/2019-05-operant-an-oldowonk-cataract-stained-glass-dump-truck.html>

About Artist Karl Unnasch (www.karlunnasch.com)

Unnasch's smaller-scale work has been exhibited as far as Europe and acclaimed in publications such as the *New York Times* and *Art in London Magazine*, while his larger-scale, award-winning public art has been featured on the likes of NBC's *Today* show, *Reader's Digest* and *Voice of America*. For over a decade, Unnasch has focused primarily on public and architectural art, typically incorporating backlit stained glass into sculptural installations. His work adorns educational facilities, banks, theaters, libraries, museum grounds, businesses and public gathering spaces across North America.

About The Greenway and the Greenway Conservancy (www.rosekennedygreenway.org)

The Greenway is the contemporary public park in the heart of Boston. The Greenway welcomes millions of visitors annually to gather, play, unwind, and explore. The Greenway Conservancy is the non-profit responsible for the management and care of The Greenway. The majority of the public park's annual budget is generously provided by private sources.

The Greenway Conservancy Public Art Program brings innovative and contemporary art to Boston through free, seasonal exhibitions, engaging people in meaningful experiences, interactions, and dialogue with art and each other. Over the past 6 years The Greenway has been awarded 7 Public Art Network Awards through the Americans for the Arts, placing the Greenway Conservancy in a preeminent position among nonprofits. Past Greenway exhibitions can be viewed on the Conservancy's website.

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