

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RUMINANT / HARVEST PARK DEDICATION

Community of Reedsburg gathers to cut the ribbon on large scale public art piece

REEDSBURG, WI. September 29, 2014

The Ruminant/Harvest Park Project Committee has organized a Dedication Ceremony for *Ruminant*, a large scale public art piece consisting of a vintage re-outfitted harvesting combine accoutered with 34 stained glass panels that has been installed in a new downtown City Park on the corner of South Park and Railroad Streets in Reedsburg. Minnesota Artist Karl Unnasch has been busy installing the piece since last week. Unnasch is slated to complete his work by Tuesday, September 30th. During the installation process, visitors have been stopping by to ask about the project. Said Unnasch, "In order to get the work done, I've had to keep my head down. I couldn't chat with folks as much as I'd like to, but I'm definitely getting some interesting reactions." Preparing the piece for delivery took months of work at his studio in Pilot Mound, MN while Unnasch fortified the combine and the panels for permanent installation. Each stained glass panel is protected by a thick layer of glass or Plexiglas to protect it. In addition, the artist's work included jacking up the combine and setting it on supports, installing the wiring and strings of tiny LED lights to illuminate the combine.

Prior to the arrival of Unnasch's work, local contractors teamed up to prepare the Harvest Park site including TEAM Engineering of Loganville, Ray Zobel and Sons, Bindl Sales and Service, and Service Electric, all of Reedsburg. Contractors worked in cooperation with Committee organizers and the City of Reedsburg Staff. Most of the time and materials were donated. Manthey Salvage of Mauston donated the body of the combine for the project.

Unnasch, described by project organizers as "colorful and fun", is slated to address the community during the Dedication. Other speakers include Dave Estes, Mayor of Reedsburg, and a Wisconsin Arts Board representative to be announced. In addition to speakers, the Dedication will feature live music and a ribbon cutting. *Ruminant* will also be lit from within for the first time. The event is scheduled just prior to The Barley Soda Stroll which begins at 6 pm and is a prelude to this year's Fermentation Fest. Fermentation Fest officially begins on Saturday, October 4th and runs through October the 13th. The Barley Soda Stroll is a downtown Reedsburg walking tour that includes beer tasting at select downtown shops and venues. Strollers are encouraged to check out *Ruminant* while downtown. The artist, organizers and supporters will gather at Touchdown Tavern on Main Street for an informal celebration after the Dedication. Touchdown Tavern is also part of this year's Barley Soda Stroll event.

What: Ruminant/Harvest Park Dedication

When: 5-6 pm Friday, October 3rd, 2014

**Where: Harvest Park, on the corner of South Park and Railroad Streets in Downtown Reedsburg.
(Rain Venue: The Reedsburg Area Chamber of Commerce, 240 Railroad Street, Reedsburg, right across from Harvest Park.)**

This event is FREE and open to the Public.

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For more information contact Joann Mundth Douglas, Ruminant/Harvest Park Committee Chair, 608-393-2795, joannmundthdouglas@gmail.com

Artist Karl Unnasch has exhibited as far as Europe and been acclaimed in publications as esteemed as The New York Times and Art in London Magazine. His award-winning public artwork has been featured on NBC's 'Today' Show and Voice of America. In 2013, he was counted among the Artists of the Year by the Minneapolis CityPages Magazine. Unnasch today focuses primarily on public and architectural art, most typically incorporating stained glass and sculpture into his work. For more information, visit www.karlunnasch.com.

More images and details for **Ruminant (the Grand Masticator)** can be found on its Project Page at

<http://www.karlunnasch.com/project-pages/2013.10-ruminant-stained-glass-harvesting-combine.htm>.

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