

***‘RUSTICIAN’ Stained Glass Tractor Honored at
Americans for the Arts Annual Convention in Denver***



MONTEVIDEO, MINN., June 21, 2018—Americans for the Arts recently honored 49 outstanding public arts projects created in 2017 through the [Public Art Network Year in Review](#) program, the only national program that specifically recognizes the most compelling public art. Chosen by public art experts, the roster of selected projects was unveiled June 15 at Americans for the Arts’ Annual Convention in Denver. This is the 17th year that Americans for the Arts has recognized public art works.

Among the honorees is *Rustician*, an antique tractor bedecked with original backlit stained glass in Montevideo, Minn. which tells a tale of local and regional history through the imagery on the panels. Artist Karl Unnasch had been contacted by Kristi Fernholz of the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission (UMVRDC) to create a piece for Montevideo with a focus on an agricultural theme. With the support and collaboration of the Montevideo Arts Project (MAP), City of Montevideo, UMVRDC and Southwest Minnesota Arts Council, Unnasch installed *Rustician* in Montevideo in October 2017.

“This is a project that is near and dear to my rural roots,” says Unnasch. “Being able to relate to a local set of stories and many of the historical and cultural touchpoints that fortify them continues to be inspiring...and it feeds my soul as well. I’m particularly grateful to all the local support and help in realizing this beacon.” A public artist from Southeast Minnesota, Unnasch has installed across North America, typically utilizing stained glass as an integral medium in his projects and installations. More about Unnasch and *Rustician* can be found on his website at www.karlunnasch.com.

“The best of public art can challenge, delight, educate, and illuminate. Most of all, public art creates a sense of civic vitality in the cities, towns, and communities we inhabit and visit,” said **Robert L. Lynch**, president and CEO of Americans for the Arts. “As these Public Art Network *Year in Review* selections illustrate, public art has the power to enhance our lives on a scale that little else can. I congratulate the artists and commissioning groups for these community treasures, and I look forward to honoring more great works in the years to come.”

The projects selected for *Year in Review* can be viewed [on this page and are on display throughout the Annual Convention](#). Three independent public art experts—Bryan Lee, Jr., director of design at Colloqate Design in New Orleans; Karen Mack, executive director of LA Commons in Los Angeles; and Denver artist Patrick Marold—discussed the trends they uncovered while examining hundreds of submissions in selecting this year’s choices for the most exemplary, innovative permanent or temporary public art works created or debuted in 2017.

The complete presentation, which includes photos and descriptions of all 49 projects, will be available for purchase through [Americans for the Arts’ store](#).

Americans for the Arts is the leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts and arts education in America. With offices in Washington, D.C., and New York City, it has a record of more than 55 years of service. Americans for the Arts is dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts. Additional information is available at www.AmericansForTheArts.org.