

PRESS RELEASE
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Artist Karl Unnasch's "Stained Glass Log Cabin" for Philbrook Museum Honored at Americans for the Arts Annual Convention in Minneapolis

Tulsa, Okla. / Pilot Mound, Minn., June 14, 2019 —

Americans for the Arts today honored Artist Karl Unnasch's log cabin installation on the grounds of the Philbrook Museum of Art in Tulsa, Oklahoma, titled "*Slumgullion (The Venerate Outpost)*", among 50 outstanding public arts projects created in 2018 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 this morning at Americans for the Arts' Annual Convention in Minneapolis. This is the 18th year that Americans for the Arts has recognized public art works.



Slumgullion was created within the shell of a reclaimed 19th-century log cabin as a walk-through installation incorporating various forms of stained glass, art glass and resin-bonded textiles. Unnasch filled the windows, ceiling/roof and other apertures with these vibrantly colored translucent media, lending a prismatic glow inside and out. The work also includes a grand faux fireplace made of stacked books with a pulsating glass "fire" and tokens of historic rural Americana.

Philbrook confirms that the piece has been receiving accolades. Nathan Gunter, Editor of Oklahoma Today Magazine, called *Slumgullion* "One of the most amazing things I've ever seen in Oklahoma."

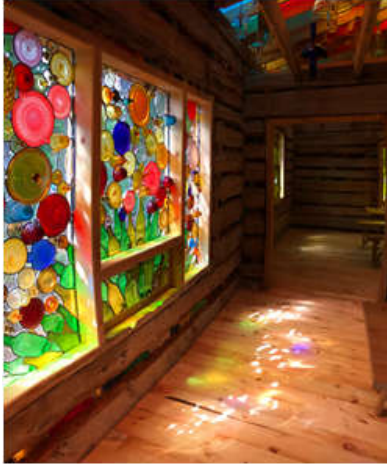
"I'm still finding all sorts of neat little touches every time I come out here," states Scott Stulen, Philbrook President and Director, who commissioned the work as a programmable space with the intent of giving visitors more reason to visit the outer grounds.

"The American log cabin has stood as a symbol of rural gumption, nationalistic pride, abject poverty, political clout and colonial incursion," explains Artist Karl Unnasch. "It is simple and honest in its design, but given enough time, becomes a collective reliquary of those who have known it intimately."

More details and images can be found on the *Slumgullion* Project Page of the Artist's website at: <http://www.karlunnasch.com/project-pages/slumgullion/2018-10-slumgullion-the-venerate-outpost-philbrook-museum-tulsa-log-cabin.html>

"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 at <http://www.americansforthearts.org/yir/2019> and will be displayed throughout the Annual Convention. Two independent public art experts—artist Seitu Jones of Saint Paul, Minnesota, and Aaron Ott, Curator of Public Art at Albright Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, New York—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 2018.

The complete presentation, which includes photos and descriptions of all 50 projects, will be available for purchase through [Americans for the Arts’ store](#).

About:

Artist Karl Unnasch focuses primarily on creating 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. Nestled close to his farmstead roots in Southeastern Minnesota, he creates works highlighting overlooked objects and concepts inherently personal to his rural experiences. Unnasch’s smaller-scale work has been exhibited as far as Europe and acclaimed in publications as esteemed as the *New York Times* and *Art in London Magazine*, while his larger-scale, award-winning public art has been featured on prominent U.S. and even international media including NBC’s ‘*Today*’ show, *Reader’s Digest* and *Voice of America*. For more information, visit <http://www.karlunnasch.com/>.

Philbrook Museum of Art in Tulsa, Oklahoma is a world-class art museum in a historic villa among 25 acres of gardens. It strives to be an essential and exceptional participant in the cultural, educational, and economic life of a growing and diverse community, and remains dedicated to inspiring the broadest possible public engagement, access, and service. Visit <https://philbrook.org/>.

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 <http://www.americansforthearts.org/>. More on the Public Art Network can be found at <http://www.americansforthearts.org/by-program/networks-and-councils/public-art-network>.

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