

PRESS RELEASE

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“Stained Glass Log Cabin” Opens on Art Museum Grounds

TULSA, OKLA. — Nov. 2018



The Philbrook Museum of Art in Tulsa, Okla. has just added to its collection a walk-through installation by Artist Karl Unnasch: a reclaimed 19th-century log cabin accoutered with original stained glass and art glass in Unnasch’s signature style. Completed in Fall 2018 as a programmable space and stand-alone sculptural installation on the museum’s outer grounds, the work, titled *Slumgullion (The Venerate Outpost)*, glows from the inside by day and the outside by night. Featuring stained glass windows with integrated slumped glass bottles and tableware, a translucent ceiling/roof tiled with prismatic resin-bonded T-shirts, a grand “fireplace” of stacked books housing a pulsating glass “fire”, dozens of colorful lanterns composed of glass tableware and bottles, and translucent resin-dipped cloth with ensconced LED lighting to serve as chinking between the logs, the piece is irrefutably one-of-a-kind.

Nathan Gunter, Editor of Oklahoma Today Magazine, calls *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. As Stulen commissioned the work with the intent of giving visitors more reason to visit the outer grounds, it also includes Amish-made picnic-style tables in each of its two rooms to allow for events and programming outside of regular museum hours. The cabin has already been used for dinner parties and is currently serving as Santa’s outpost for the holiday season.

“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.” In developing that concept, Unnasch blended in tokens of nostalgic rural Americana from across the decades and titled the work ‘slumgullion’: a colloquial term used in various geographical areas referring to variations on a ‘stew, soup or hash, typically contrived from a mish-mash of leftovers’. Incorporating many pieces contributed by Tulsans for the project, the work not only references a broader history but is in many ways also a very intimate local homage. “It has brought me great joy to have the opportunity to reconstruct such a piece of our history and infuse it with meaning and new life,” states Unnasch.

In further elucidation of both Unnasch’s intentions with the piece and his play on words, his website states: “Beckoning to the reverent, yet gleefully lacking the pomposity to itself ever be fully venerable, *Slumgullion (The Venerate Outpost)* is a work that resists definition — and deliberately engenders its very own sense of self.”

More details and images can be found on the Artist’s website at

<http://www.karlunnasch.com/project-pages/2018.10-slumgullion-the-venerate-outpost-philbrook-museum-tulsa-log-cabin.htm>.

About the Artist

Karl Unnasch focuses primarily on creating public and architectural art, incorporating stained glass and sculpture into his work. 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/>.

About the Philbrook Museum of Art

Philbrook Museum of Art in Tulsa, Oklahoma 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. For more information, visit <https://philbrook.org/>.

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