

Burnt Matchstick

A Groundbreaking Sculpture of Fabricated Steel and Backlit Opalescent Glass

created by Sculptor and Stained Glass Artist Karl Unnasch
and brought to you by the Minnesota State Arts Board
and the Rochester Art Center

Until Summer of 2016, visitors to the Rochester Art Center in Rochester, Minnesota will be greeted by a 40-foot-tall, steel-framed opalescent glass sculpture created by Public Artist Karl Unnasch.

Impactful and monumental by day, this revolutionary outdoor piece turns into a glowing beacon of rich color by night.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE PIECE

This artwork captures a fleeting moment in time: the split-second after which a burning wooden matchstick has been extinguished by a gust of air.

The vast play on scale for so trivial an object incites its beholder to reflection upon any number of things: from the transformative power of an impactful event to the overarching concepts of fragility and ephemerality; from the role of fire as a saver and destroyer to the anthropomorphic metaphor inherent in our every human perception.

"A matchstick — an innocuous, tiny bit of wood. But it is also a starting point for something potentially much, much greater than itself. In its burnt state it begs the staggering question... of what the implications might have been."

— Karl Unnasch,
Creator of Burnt Matchstick

"... an awe-inspiring piece."

— Shannon Fitzgerald,
Executive Director
of the Rochester Art Center

BURNT MATCHSTICK'S BACKGROUND

Burnt Matchstick is a creation by Artist Karl Unnasch, whose work has evolved into three-dimensional stained glass and art glass sculptural installations of various forms.

This installation was made possible in part by a Minnesota State Arts Board Artist Initiative Grant and in part by funding from the Rochester Art Center. RAC is the inaugural venue at which *Burnt Matchstick* is being showcased. It is a colorful incorporation — albeit temporary — into a city with few established large public works.

THE FUTURE OF BURNT MATCHSTICK

In Summer of 2016, *Burnt Matchstick* will become available for permanent acquisition, or for interim exhibition at other venues. Parties interested in either hosting or acquiring *Burnt Matchstick* may contact the Artist directly.

About the Artist and His Work



The award-winning public artwork of Karl Unnasch has been spreading nationwide and is rapidly gaining acclaim. It has been featured on prominent national and even international media including NBC's *Today* show and *Voice of America*.

Karl combines equal amounts of beauty and invention to create finished public works that primarily identify with the local populace and summarily resonate with the broader audience of the world at large. Found in educational facilities and medical wings, banks and theater lobbies, businesses and public gathering spaces — from areas as rural as the cornfields of the Heartland to areas as urban as the threshold of our nation's capital — Karl's public artworks have been reaching an ever-broader demographic.

While continuing to exhibit, Karl today focuses primarily on public and architectural art, most typically incorporating stained glass and sculpture into his work.



“Karl Unnasch is a mid-west whisperer and national treasure.”

— Chris Pennington,
Twin Cities Public Arts Facilitator



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www.karlunnasch.com

Tel. 507-272-0452
karl@karlunnasch.com



31314 State Hwy. 30
Chatfield, MN 55923

Introducing

Burnt Matchstick

A Work by
Sculptor and
Stained Glass
Artist

**KARL
UNNASCH**

Standing at 40 feet tall and constructed entirely of backlit opalescent glass on a steel framework, this glowing sculpture is arguably the first of its kind.

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KARL
UNNASCH