

PRESS RELEASE

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Iconic Unnasch Sculpture Returns to Minnesota

Oct. 27, 2022 – Holdingford, Minn.

In 2017, when the 40-foot *Burnt Matchstick* sculpture left Rochester and headed for California, many Minnesotans thought they'd never see it again. Now in 2022, this revolutionary stained-glass-and-steel piece has returned for good and found its "forever-home" on the grounds of Art in Motion on the Lake Wobegon Trail.

Prized as the largest – and one of the most well-known – works by Minnesotan sculptor and stained glass artist Karl Unnasch, the piece was initially funded in part by a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. It had debuted in 2015 at the Rochester Art Center as a temporary exhibit; then, in 2017, it was moved to Newport Beach, California, for an appearance at the *Sculpture in Civic Center Park* exhibition. While there, the *L.A. Times* named it a favorite of both the arts panel and the public through an online survey.

Meanwhile, Minnesota community-builder Greg Konsor heard of *Burnt Matchstick's* availability for permanent placement and became interested in securing it for his expanding project, Art in Motion on the Lake Wobegon Trail. The site hosts rotating exhibits in its art gallery, weekly music performances, an open art studio, community events, and a café featuring offerings from local providers. Outdoors, the expansive grounds offer space for walks and exploration – and are now also home to the largest existing stained-glass-and-steel sculpture by one of Minnesota's most well-known public artists nationally and beyond.

Burnt Matchstick is featured on a project page on Unnasch's website at <https://www.karlunnasch.com/>, where more details about the work and the artist can be found.

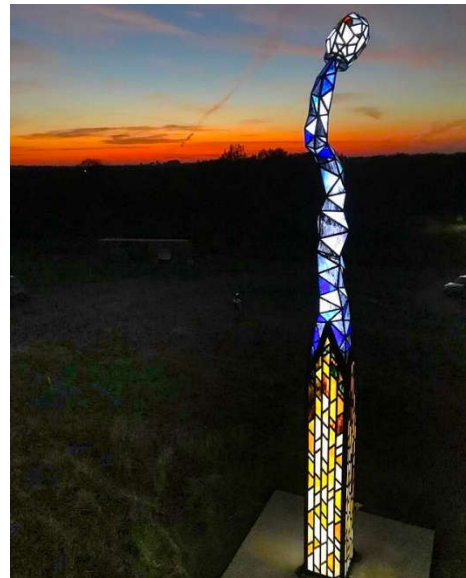
On Sunday, October 30, 2022 at 6:30 p.m., Art in Motion is hosting its kickoff "Lighting of the Burnt Matchstick" event, to include an artist talk by Unnasch, ceremonial "lighting" of the sculpture, bonfire, s'mores, and cider. More info on the event can be found at: <https://www.artinmotiononthelakewobegontrail.com/events/lighting-of-the-burnt-matchstick>

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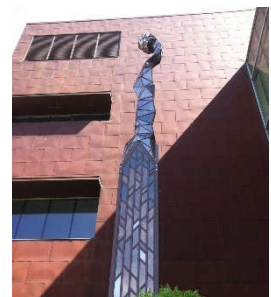
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Burnt Matchstick, newly installed on the grounds of Art in Motion on the Lake Wobegon Trail in Holdingford, Minn., 2022



Burnt Matchstick at its original site in front of the Rochester Art Center, 2015



Burnt Matchstick in Civic Center Park at Newport Beach, California, 2017