

# PUBLIC ART

## DESCRIPTIONS

### 1 MacRostie Art Center / Community Murals

ARTISTS: Thomas Page, Sherry El-Nashaar, Paula Swenson, and students from Bovey/Coleraine, Deer River, & Grand Rapids / 2012

Funded in part by the Minnesota State Arts Board, students in Bovey/Coleraine, Deer River, and Grand Rapids were brought together with professional artists to design and create a mural representing their respective communities.

### 2 U.S. Post Office

ARTWORK TITLE: Life in Grand Rapids and the Upper Mississippi

ARTIST: James S. Watrous / 1940

One of many public art projects commissioned as part of the New Deal in the 1930s and 1940s, this mural was funded through the Treasury Department's Section of Fine Arts. A study for the mural is included in the collection of the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C.

### 3 Grand Rapids State Bank / Whitetail Deer

ARTIST: Bill Davis / 2002

This sculpture by Bill Davis, a wildlife artist with work at Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming, was purchased by Steven Wilcox of Grand Rapids State Bank as a tribute to the abundance of whitetail deer in the region.

### 4 Central School / Stairwell Paintings

ARTIST: Ted Tinquist / 1958

In the north stairwell at Central School there are five paintings that were originally connected as one piece for a float in a parade. The paintings depict various scenes and subjects of significance to the area. After the parade the mural was broken up into separate pieces and then displayed at the Itasca County Courthouse. The paintings were moved to Central School during courthouse renovations.

### 5 Grand Rapids Fire Station / Fireman Statue

ARTIST: unknown

Donated by the family of Jack Dowell, former Fire Chief

#### 9/11 Memorial

ARTIST: Ken Steel / 2012

In this sculpture, a steel I-beam donated by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey from the World Trade Center is combined with a sculpture of an eagle and flag to honor the fallen firefighters and other victims of the September 11 tragedy.

### 6 Center / Judy Garland Mural

ARTIST: John Kelsch / 1997

This painting is located at a former site of the Children's Museum and depicts characters from the Wizard of Oz. Grand Rapids was the birth place of Judy Garland in 1922, which gives the community a special connection to the famous film. Today, the painting serves as a sign pointing out the new address of the Judy Garland and Children's Discovery Museum.

### 7 Brewed Awakenings / Mosaics

ARTIST: Peter Gordienko / 2006

This decorative and playful mosaic was created during the renovation of the building after it was purchased by Brewed Awakenings. Peter, the mosaicist, is an artist living in rural Remer, Minnesota.

### 8 Glorvigen, Theis, Lind, & Co Office

ARTWORK TITLE: Hope

ARTIST: Thomas Page / 2004

A bronze sculpture that was commissioned by Glorvigen, it captures movement of waves and the boat. There is a sister piece called Destiny located in a conference room in the building that is nearly identical but with a differing patina and sail.

ARTWORK TITLE: The Grand Rapids

ARTIST: Keith Thompson / circa 2005

This piece closely resembles a historical photo of the area scenery. There was a mile of rapids from town to the Pokegama dam, which meant that steamboats were unable to go further north than The Grand Rapids.

ARTWORK TITLE: The Grand Rapids

ARTIST: Michael Tonder

Tonder is an artist who works with broken glass by shaping it into different forms. This piece illustrates The Grand Rapids in glass. The rocks incorporated into this piece were collected right from the Mississippi River.

Stained Glass Doors

ARTIST: Ken Patzoldt and Jo Manbeck / 2005

### 9 Grand Rapids Area Library

ARTWORK TITLE: Rotation

ARTIST: Jon Strom / 1992

Purchased by Friends of the Library

ARTWORK TITLE: Flight of Knowledge

ARTIST: Thomas Page / 2000

This sculpture was commissioned in 2000 for the new library. Contributors to the new library's construction are listed on the bronze sculpture.

ARTWORK TITLE: Rapture of Reading

ARTIST: Tom Page / 2000

ARTWORK TITLE: Revolving River Batik

ARTIST: Diane Rutherford / 2008

This work represents the Mississippi River and depicts different aspects of the river. Edge: grasses and bulrushes. Shore: rice and arrowhead. Surface: water lilies and smartweed. Submerged: crowfoot and pondweed. Bottom: rocks, sand, shells, and junk.

ARTWORK TITLE: Blue Iris

ARTIST: Donna LaBeau / 2008

### 10 KAXE, Northern Community Radio

ARTIST: Madga Kearns and KAXE volunteers / 2006

Artists and volunteers responded to calls for donated glass and mosaic sculptures. Different artists created each sculpture on the KAXE grounds and along the Mississippi River Walk.

## 11 Mississippi River Mural

ARTIST: **Mark Marino / 1989**

The mural is a map that displays the Mississippi River starting from Lake Itasca and going to the river's delta at the Gulf of Mexico. It identifies major cities along the river. In 1832 Henry Schoolcraft identified Lake Itasca as the river's primary source – he had been part of the expedition in 1820 led by General Lewis Cass. These explorers were in search of a word to call the head of the Mississippi that demonstrated that Itasca was the “true head” of the mighty river. The Ojibwe name of the lake was Omashkoozo-zaaga’igan, and Schoolcraft renamed it “Itasca” by combining the last four letters of the Latin word veritas (“truth”) and the first two letters of caput (“head”).

## 12 Blandin Paper Mill

### Grinder Man Sculpture

ARTIST: **Thomas Page / 2001**

This sculpture was a tribute to the 100 year celebration of the Blandin Paper Mill and to its employees from the past and present. Most employees at Blandin started their careers in the grinder room, where logs were fed into hydraulically operated pockets of wood were pressed against a 13 ton imported abrasive wheel that combined with water pulp that was passed on until it became suitable for paper making. Rough math indicated enough wood was processed into pulp this way to equal the labor required to build the great pyramids, a significant amount of human labor. Pete (Harold) Petersen, a third generation paper mill worker with over 40 years of experience, was the model for the grinder man.

## 13 Blandin Foundation

ARTWORK TITLE: **The Papermaker**

ARTIST: **Ray Wattenhofer / 1986**

This statue wears the traditional uniform for those working in the paper mill during the turn of the century: a buttoned shirt, pants with trousers, and is barefoot. The man holds a slab of paper in hand and has a wrench in his pocket which would indicate that part of his job included turning of valves. The statue weighs approximately 1,000 lbs and the mould for the statue was destroyed after it was produced.

## 14 Janicke Bakery

ARTWORK TITLE: **Four Seasons of Activity in Grand Rapids**

ARTISTS: **Various / 1995**

In 1994, Itasca Art Association director Bev Slatton conceived of the idea of a mural along the south wall of Janicke Bakery. Thanks to donations from Blandin Paper Mill, local woodworkers and artists, and volunteers from the community, the mural was completed and installed in 1995. The overall design was created by student Mike Sommers and many local artists contributed to sections of the mural.

Katie : room here for some kind of closure if you would like....

## Additional Grand Rapids Public Art:

### Myles Reif Performing Arts Center

720 NW Conifer Drive, Grand Rapids, MN

ARTWORK TITLE: **The First Strike**

ARTISTS: **Thomas Page / 2012**

Commissioned by the Myles Reif Performing Arts Center to mark the Center's 30th Anniversary and recognize the patrons who have supported the Reif Endowment Fund.

### Grand Itasca Clinic and Hospital

1601 Golf Course Road, Grand Rapids, MN

When construction began for a new hospital in 2003, the planning committee sought out artwork from local artists to make the hospital environment more inviting and comfortable.