

Twin Cities' dedication to arts will melt your heart

BY NORMA AND WENDY SCHWEMMER
CORRESPONDENTS

What do you think of when someone mentions the Twin Cities? Bitter cold winters with tons of snow? Although it's true, what most people don't know is how inviting and hospitable the Twin Cities are, and that they are a Mecca for art and architecture.

MINNEAPOLIS

With a vibrant downtown famous for its seven miles of elevated, temperature-controlled, enclosed walkways, called the Skyway, Minneapolis is very impressive and comfortable in all seasons.

The main street, Nicollet Mall, is a pedestrian mall in downtown with heated sidewalks and bus shelters with piped-in classical music. From bus shelters to

IF YOU GO

Call (888) 676-6757 or go to www.minneapolis.org for travel information.

big buildings and manhole covers to monuments, Minneapolis is dedicated to providing free public art.

The bus shelters are octagonal glass artworks, each etched with a different design style such as prairie school, art deco, and post modern to name a few. Even the manhole covers on Nicollet Mall reflect their emphasis on art with eleven different cast iron designs embedded in the sidewalk, depicting flora and fauna of Minnesota.

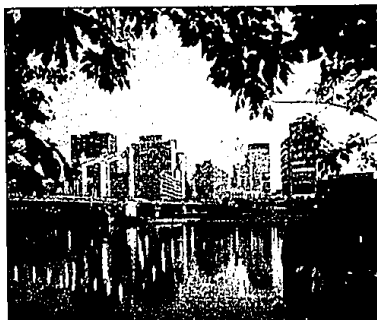
Beautiful sculptures and fountains abound. One stunning

bronze-sculpted fountain depicts three large Minnesota birds. Then there's the unique ice/water fountain that consists of stainless steel forms set in a basin of water. During the winter, regular misting creates ice formations. An eight-foot bronze statue of Mary Tyler Moore performing her famous hat toss stands on the corner of 7th and Nicollet to commemorate the Minneapolis-based sitcom.

There is no shortage of top-notch museums in this ever-artful city. The Walker Art Center is among the best contemporary art museums in the world, displaying 20th century and contemporary art from America and Europe. The adjacent 11-acre Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, is the largest urban sculpture park, with works by internationally acclaimed artists. Don't miss Frank Gehry's *Standing Glass Fish* in the Palm Court and the *Spoonbridge and Cherry* in the center of the garden.

The Minneapolis Institute of Arts with more than 85,000 works spanning 4,000 years is one of the outstanding art museums in the country.

The American Swedish Institute, the former 33-room Turnblad mansion, with intricately carved oak, walnut and mahogany interiors, magnificent



Water reflects the lights of Minneapolis at night.

decorative porcelain tile stoves, plus artifacts and marvelous collections of Swedish glass and fine arts is a must see. A symbiotic relationship between the artistry of Nature and man makes Minneapolis that much more enchanting. Noted as the City of Lakes, there are several large lakes within the city. A great destination is Long Lake, just six blocks from downtown. For delicious autumn colors, walk, bike or roller-ski on the paths

around any of the lakes. At the north end of the downtown area, The Mississippi River meets St. Anthony Falls. This once-neglected waterfront is being redeveloped with plans for the new home of the Guthrie Theater, loft condos, Mill City Museum and more cultural activities.

ST. PAUL

Linked to its sister city by a suspension bridge across the

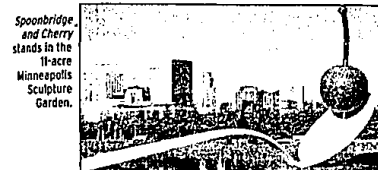
Mississippi, St. Paul is the capital of Minnesota. Not to be outdone culturally, St. Paul is home to the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Minnesota Opera, and the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts and other theaters.

The newly opened Science Museum of Minnesota is a six-story building on the Mississippi River with hands-on exhibits that allow visitors to touch a tornado and walk under a two-story dinosaur.

The art deco St. Paul City Hall and Courthouse creates a beautiful space to display a breathtaking sculpture by Carl Milles called *Vision of Peace*. Depicting a group of Native Americans smoking their sacred ceremonial pipes, the 36-foot tall main figure is carved of white onyx and weighs nearly 60 tons.

The James J. Hill House, built in 1891 by the railroad magnate, contains 36,000 square feet on five floors with 22 fireplaces and 16 crystal chandeliers. This National Historic Landmark has very sophisticated plumbing, electrical and security systems more attuned to present times than its own.

In any weather, let the warm ambience created by the confluence of the abundant art, innovative architecture and natural beauty melt your heart.



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THE Observer & Eccentric
NEWSPAPERS

CONTEMPLATIVE SPACES
at the
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We are pleased to present "Contemplative Spaces", a fall exhibition. Journey into the contemplative spaces created by Joyce Grace, Judy Enright, Susan Eddy, and Susan Massucci. Their paintings depict familiar places and unfamiliar spaces.

This explorative exhibition of over fifty works will be on display from October 8 through November 8. All are welcome to a Meet-the-Artist reception on October 10 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

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