

Art & Sculpture Guide - 2023

1. A Tribute to Ole ('05 Dennis Roghair): This statue memorializes Cliff "Ole" Olson, a longtime State Fair employee. Find him playing with his dog outside the History & Heritage Center.

2. The Late Gale C. Frost ('06, Dennis Roghair): Longtime State Fair historian and museum curator Gale Frost was one of four generations of the Frost family who worked for and loved the Minnesota State Fair. Here he sits painting a sign amid the bustling scene northwest of the History & Heritage Center.

3. Arts A'Fair: Arts A'Fair brings dance, music and theatrical arts to West End Market and the plaza south of the Grandstand, east of the Grandstand Ramp. Refer to daily schedules for specific performances and times.

4. Sweet Martha's Cookie Jar ('95, Dennis Roghair): A couple of kids enjoy this iconic State Fair treat, located on the east side of Sweet Martha's location west of the Grandstand.

5. Historical Photographs: Past and present photos of the Minnesota State Fair line the exterior south wall of the Grandstand. Other historical photos are located in the Food Building, History & Heritage Center and the Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum.

6. Future Projections' Canopy/Calliope: The sounds of an olde-tyme calliope bounce to carnival rhythms while showers of fish, flowers and fantastical creatures light up the canopy above. This public art installation takes place Aug. 28-30 at dusk (approximately 9 p.m.). Located south of the Grandstand, east of the Grandstand Ramp.

7. Joyful World Mural Park: Since its debut at the 2021 State Fair, 16 local artists have painted large-scale colorful artworks depicting the world in which they want to live. Four new artists will add to the art park, creating their pieces during the 2023 State Fair. Located south of the Grandstand, east of the Grandstand Ramp.

8. Quilting Linus ('02-'04, Neil Boltik): Part of the beloved Peanuts on Parade, Linus stands at the bottom of the Grandstand Ramp proudly holding his first-place ribbon for his handwork creating his iconic blanket.

9. Chesin's Cafe Caribe ('05, Dennis Roghair): A dreadlocked Rasta-man plays the conga drum outside this festive Caribbean restaurant on Carnes Avenue.

10. Bas-Relief Carvings: These historic low-relief sculptures enhance the architecture on the fairgrounds. Find these on the exterior of the Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum (1951), Agriculture Horticulture Building (1947), Cattle Barn (1920), Horse Barn (1937), Sheep & Poultry Barn (1937) and Progress Center (1907).

11. Anticipation ('13, Joe Semler Jr.): A boy waits with ticket in hand for his turn to ride, located at the Giant Slide.

12. Pioneer Woman ('58, Gordon Shumaker): This 20-foot-tall pioneer woman was built to commemorate Minnesota's Statehood Centennial. Located on the east side of Ramberg Center.

13. Dairy Dog ('00, David Kamish): Part of Peanuts on Parade, Snoopy balances tasty dairy goods in one paw with a glass of milk in the other, in front of where else — the Dairy Building!

14. Butter Sculptures (Gerry Kulzer): Princess Kay of the Milky Way and her court have their likenesses carved into 90-pound blocks of butter in an annual tradition celebrating Minnesota's dairy industry. Located in the Dairy Building.

15. Only in MN: Grab a selfie or "ussie" at the Instagrammable #OnlyinMN sign, located inside the newly revamped Gate #9 entrance to the fairgrounds.

16. Biker Bear ('96, Dennis Roghair): Biker Bear waves at visitors from this former bike lot location, inside the southeast corner of the fairgrounds.

17. World Globe ('08, Bohl Iron Works): This powder-coated steel globe with embossed mountain ranges at the International Bazaar entrance welcomes guests to sounds, sights and flavors from around the world.

18. Agriculture Horticulture Building: See the State Fair tradition of crop art! Seeds, stems and other specimens grown in Minnesota are used to create masterpieces. Also here are dressed-up scarecrows, bee & honey art, and so much more! In the center rotunda, see colorful plants displayed as part of "Floralpalooza: Happily Ever After!"

19. Bride & Groom ('00, Dennis Roghair): Find this newlywed couple walking down the aisle into the Gates Ajar garden outside the southwest corner of the Agriculture Horticulture Building.

20. Statue of Liberty ('86, Steve Dow): Created for the 1986 Minneapolis Aquatennial, this Minnesotan Lady Liberty look-alike outside northwest corner of the Agriculture Horticulture Building honors the pioneer women of our state.

21. From His Bounty ('91, Dennis Roghair): A Native American man gives thanks for the abundant nourishment Minnesota's land provides. Located outside the south side of the Food Building.

22. Animal sculptures (Fredrick Prescott): These brightly colored steel and enamel sculptures move with a slight touch. The bull, coyote and Holy Cow were created in various years and installed in 2011 south of the Administration Building. A pig can be found east of the Horse Barn on Liggett Street, and a red horse can be found nibbling grass on the median of Randall Avenue, between Underwood and Cooper streets. A purple cow and colorful rooster were added outside the J.V. Bailey House in 2015.

23. Fairchild ('66, Gordon Shumaker): A 24-foot fiberglass statue next to the Bandshell commemorates the State Fair's gopher mascot.

24. Peanuts on Parade ('02-'04, Neil Boltik): The Peanuts gang, designed around a State Fair theme, features "Dog Nap at the Fair," "State Fair Snoopy" and "Super Star Lucy." Find them outside Libby Conference Center and the Admin Too offices.

25. Greetings From Minnesota ('08, Susan Warner): This glass art mosaic in the form of a monumental travel postcard commemorates the 2008 Minnesota Statehood Sesquicentennial. Located outside the Food Building, east side.

26. Pronto Pup ('96, Dennis Roghair): This sombrero-clad Pronto Pup celebrates the 1947 original food on-a-stick. Located on Cooper Street in front of the Pronto Pup stand.

27. Creative Activities Building: An annual exhibition of the finest needlework, handcrafts, baking and canning that Minnesota has to offer.

28. Chef ('89, Johnnie Hunter): A little chef stands ready to delight diners on the west side of Cosgrove Street, between Dan Patch and Wright avenues.

29. Education Building: The winning artwork of Minnesota K-12 students is displayed. Items include drawings, paintings, sewing, robots and more.

30. Patience Is a Virtue ('94, Dennis Roghair): Mother and infant pause on the east side of Cooper Street, between Dan Patch and Wright avenues.

31. Fairing Well ('93, Dennis Roghair): A young girl stops to pick up a lost coin along Cooper Street near the Kidway while enjoying the fair with her father.

32. Clown with Balloons ('88, Johnnie Hunter): This brightly dressed clown matches the balloons he carries thanks to a creative paint job from a few 4-H'ers. Find him on the northeast corner of Underwood Avenue and Wright Street.

33. 4-H Building: Check out the works of talented Minnesota 4-H'ers on display in the 4-H Building. Also here: Arts-In performances, where students participate in musicals, dance, theater and more. See a daily schedule for dates and times.

34. Fine Arts Center: Experience the largest juried art exhibition in Minnesota. Be sure to check out the original 2023 State Fair Commemorative Art by crop artist Liz Schreiber. Meet artists at Studio: HERE, a rare glimpse into how art is created, as part of the gallery is turned into a studio.

35. With Palette in Hand ('99, Dennis Roghair): Situated outside the Fine Arts Center, this contemplative artist thinks about his next masterpiece.

36. Remember When... ('92, Dennis Roghair): An old man stops to listen to music east of the Family Fair Stage in Baldwin Park.

37. Corn ('92, Dennis Roghair): You guessed it — a 6-foot ear of corn on the west side of Underwood Street, north of Randall Avenue.

38. Giant Sing Along ('11, Daily tous les jours): Sing karaoke-style! Created by Montreal artists, this art experience brings fair visitors together in a field of microphones. Located north of Lee Avenue between Cooper and Underwood streets.

39. Impressionist Sculpture ('75, Katherine Nash): In recognition of Women's Day and International Women's Year, this metal sculpture represents the fractured continents of the world and women coming together to work for peace. Located outside the campground along Cosgrove Street.

40. Minnesota Corn Fairstalk ('19): The 24-foot-tall Minnesota Corn Fairstalk features giant LED screens displaying fun facts about corn and farming, as well as news from the fair. The eye-catching structure also features video of Minnesota's corn farmers. The Minnesota Corn Growers Association and Minnesota Corn Research & Promotion Council partnered with the Minnesota State Fair to bring the Fairstalk to the North End in 2019.

41. Fairchild, Hotdish Girl, Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox ('19, Adam Turman): Pose for photos next to these Minnesota icons, created by Minnesota artist Adam Turman. Located at the North End.

42. Sweet & Selfie Experience: Visit this Instagram-worthy world of larger-than-life sweets at the North End Event Center. Free with admission to the 2023 State Fair.

KEY Green = Tree Sculptures Orange = Art Attractions Blue = Other Sculptures & Artwork

