



Susan Schaefer's Engineered to a Higher Standard collage.

ART-A-WHIRL >> from 12

where our group show was held. UMN also benefits from the state's arts funding.

More recently, working from a light-filled studio in the Thorpe Building, I produced my collage titled, "Engineered to a Higher Standard," in response to the murder of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter movement.

Each of these activities has a lifeline directly connected to Minnesota's commitment to the arts.

But I am more than a practicing visual artist. I am also a journalist dedicated to shining a light on how creativity contributes to human wellbeing.

It is worthwhile to remember that behind Minnesota's economic arts' statistics toil humans whose creativity and innovation fuel this so-called creative class. Frequently laboring for the sheer love of their craft, many visual and performing artists, directors, inventors and innovators produce from an inner creative core more likely fueled by passion than personal gain. These makers are marked by an almost holy drive to create – and when their artistry and intent collide, it often yields something extraordinary in its wake.


Susan Schaefer is a widely published independent journalist, creative writer, and poet. Her articles appear in the Minneapolis Star Tribune, PBS' online magazine, Next Avenue, Next Tribe, and beyond. She was columnist and features writer for Minneapolis' Southwest Journal and Minnesota Good Age magazine.




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