

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS!

Art LEAP 2026

EVENT GUIDE



An annual fall driving tour of Heartland Lakes artists' studios
and Park Rapids, Minnesota area cultural destinations

September 26 & 27, 2026

Sponsored by HEARTLAND ARTS • heartlandarts.org

20TH ANNUAL *Art* LEAP



Hop from studio to studio, learn process, appreciate skill and support the artists. Let fall's natural beauty inspire you as it does the artists while you pass spectacular lakes and travel country roads.

CITY OF **PARK RAPIDS** - 13 SITES

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Park Rapids Sculpture Trail | 7. Gallery @ the Armory |
| 2. Park Rapids Downtown Murals | 8. The Armory Arts & Events Center |
| 3. The Tin Ceiling Gallery | 9. Studio 176 |
| 4. Overkil Metals | 10. Debbie Center - Bella Caffé |
| 5. Greet & Gather | 11. Nemeth Art Center |
| 6. Giiwedinong Treaty Rights & Culture Museum | 12. Colleen Elkington & Daughters |
| | 13. Brenda Mason |

LAKE COUNTRY SCENIC BYWAY - 3 SITES

14. Art Project 605 - Detroit Lakes
15. Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center - Itasca State Park
16. Peculiar Painter Gallery - Walker

Cover Art: Dawn Rossbach, Creative Minds Studio, Overkil Metals, Osage Auditorium, Kari Townsdin



Since the fall of 2006, Art Leap has introduced regional artists to visitors interested in learning more about their artwork, the creative process and how artists are often inspired by their natural surroundings. Many studios and sites host guest artists and offer demonstrations.

This year's 35 sites will feature more than 150 artists skilled in a variety of artistic expression: **sculptures, paintings, mixed media, pottery, photography, mosaics, wood and metal work, fiber and paper arts, jewelry, beading** and other **Native American cultural art**.

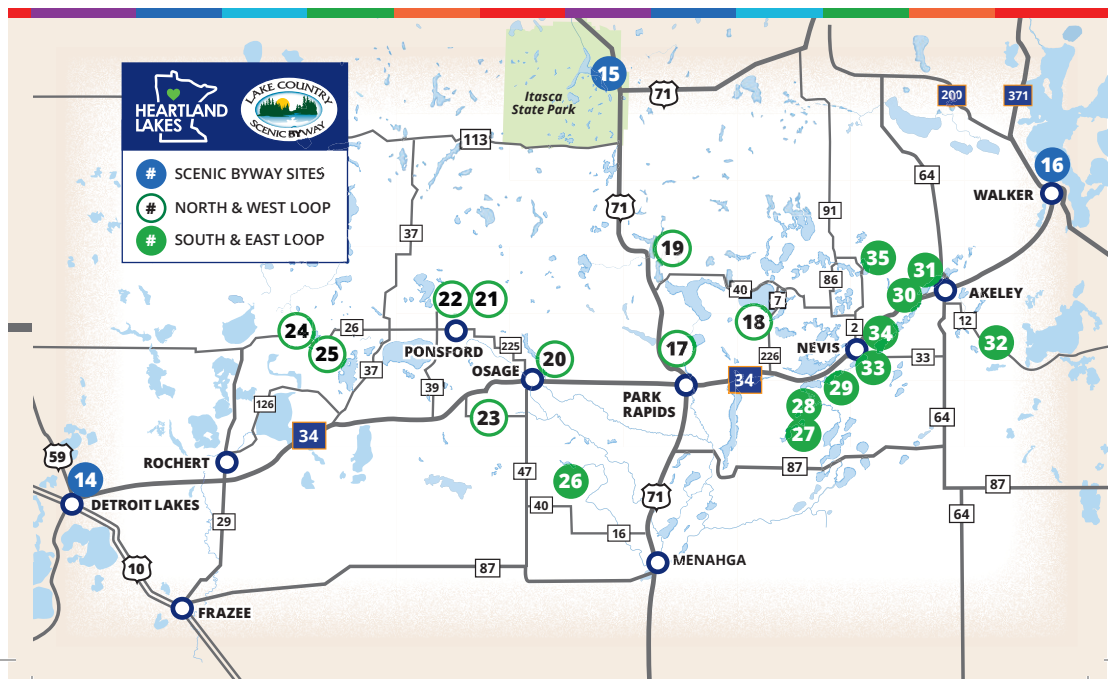
GREATER HEARTLAND LAKES - 19 SITES

NORTH & WEST LOOP

- 17. Liz Shaw
- 18. Suzanne Dinger
- 19. Jeff Renner
- 20. Osage Auditorium
- 21. Bam'idizowigamig Creator's Place
- 22. Village of Pine Point Murals
- 23. Bruce Engebretson's Weaving Studio
- 24. Dale Cook/David Norstad
- 25. Earl & Jeanette Wohlman

SOUTH & EAST LOOP

- 26. Kathleen Ristinen - Jonas
- 27. Bickey Bender
- 28. Kris & Bob Sauser - Creative Minds Studio
- 29. Dan & Mary O'Brien
- 30. Paul Albright
- 31. Fred McGregor
- 32. Rocky Shores Woodworking
- 33. Sunshine & Willow
- 34. Cedar Swan Woodshop
- 35. WolffWorks Studio



CITY OF PARK RAPIDS

1



Park Rapids Sculpture Trail

Red Bridge Park and Downtown Park Rapids

Five new sculptures were installed in May in this small park on the Fish Hook River. Visitors will find seven more sculptures scattered in the Downtown area

2



Park Rapids Downtown Murals

110 South Main Avenue, 2nd Street & Pioneer Park, Park Rapids

Mural artist Lili (Payne) Lennox and a crew painted a mural on the north wall of Aunt Belle's Confectionary in August 2020. In June 2021, mural artist Greg Preslicka created a second Downtown mural on the south wall of Enjoy, facing Pioneer Park. Lili and her crew completed a mural on 2nd Street in July 2023.

3



The Tin Ceiling Gallery

113 Main Avenue South, Park Rapids | 218-237-8516

Art Gallery and Retail Store showcasing artwork by emerging and mid-career artists of diverse backgrounds, experiences and abilities. This initiative is an extension of C.R.E.A.T.E., programming that supports artists with disabilities and offers artists the opportunity to explore, learn, create and exhibit their artwork. Stop by our gallery to take in work from our participants and community artists.

4



Overkil Metals

116 Main Avenue South, Park Rapids | 320-447-3322

Brad Brecht and Tennille Carlson create stunning metal art, specializing in custom address signs, deck panels, and unique benches. They are always happy to bring your custom designs to life. In addition to metalwork, their shop carries beautiful Lake Superior driftwood wreaths and repurposed whiskey barrels for your home.

5



Greet & Gather - Ann Schiller

209 Main Avenue South, Park Rapids | 218-366-0227

Ann Schiller, owner of Greet & Gather, is a graphic artist who creates locally inspired art, like Paul Bunyan riding his bike on the Heartland Trail. Her vibrant designs are featured on prints, T-shirts, stickers, postcards, and greeting cards, and can be found in 125 stores across the U.S. Come discover her design process for creating custom greeting cards, and then make and take your own.

6



Giiwedining Treaty Rights & Culture Museum

101 2nd Street West, Park Rapids | 218-255-7749

Through meaningful exhibits, handcrafted art, storytelling installations and community-centered displays, Giiwedining creates immersive experiences exploring local indigenous culture, history, environmentalism and life ways past and present. The featured artist exhibit is by Rabbett Strickland. Small group tours of these exhibit materials will be available.

7



Gallery @ the Armory

201 Park Avenue South, Park Rapids | 218-237-3722

The Gallery @ the Armory will offer an exhibit titled "Teach. Do." This exhibit celebrates nine teachers whose creativity, mentorship, and dedication have shaped the youth and culture of our region. Through their own artistic practice, they embody the spirit of doing what they teach. We honor their lasting impact as teachers and artists. Teach. Do. Artists are Carol Albright, Cheryl Bannes, Linda Beilke, Tiffany Besonen, Chris Boedigheimer, Dawn Rossbach, Amber Schroeder, Terry Schroeder and Bonnie Tweeton.

8



The Armory Arts & Events Center

203 Park Avenue South, Park Rapids | 218-237-3722

The Armory Arts and Event Center hosts a collection of regional artists: Kent Estey, contemporary Anishinaabe multi-media art; Animikii Print Club artists; Joann Kauppi, collage greeting cards, prints, crochet plushies; Shannon Eck, photographer; Kathy Anderson, vintage matchbook collages; Lily Hadrava, nature, wildlife and landscape photography; Kathy Sanders, handcrafted jewelry, sun catchers, coasters, tiles; Bailey Strobel, clay sculpture work, custom Coraline dolls & more. Hands-on activities: Cyanotypes with Joe Allen (3 hours - Saturday only), photo booth with Shannon Eck (2 hours Saturday and Sunday) and a screen printing station.

9



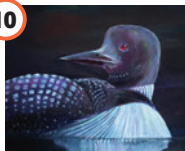
Studio 176

176 3rd Street West, Park Rapids | 218-366-1461

Studio 176 is a salon-style gallery featuring original paintings, photography, mosaics, handcrafted metal jewelry, pulled prints, watercolors and stained glass. Participating artists are Laura Grisamore, Dawn Rossbach, Bickey Bender, Jeremy Simonson, Elizabeth Rockstad, Brita Sailer and Cheryl Bannes.

CITY OF **PARK RAPIDS**

10

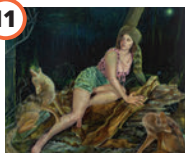


Debbie Center - Bella Caffé

116 3rd Street West, Park Rapids | 218-732-7625

Nevis artist Debbie Center will showcase her many talents. Come sip your favorite drinks at Bella Caffé while Debbie demonstrates her live painting skills, plays a captivating mix of original and classical rock piano music, and offers her beautiful acrylic paintings for sale.

11



Nemeth Art Center

301 Court Avenue, Park Rapids | 218-332-7081

Nemeth Art Center will present "The Crystal Chandeliers Light Up the Paintings on Your Walls." This exhibition is curated by Aaron Spangler and features impressive works from Matt Bollinger, Samantha Joy Groff, Frank Spidale, Jewelya Coffee, and Pete Driessen. For visitors who want to learn more, Director Mark Weiler will provide insightful guided tours of the show.

12



Colleen Elkington & Daughters

503 7th Street West, Park Rapids | 218-252-5705

Colleen Elkington brings a lifetime of color and joy to her artwork, and her acrylic paintings deeply reflect her skill. Visitors can watch her paint a live scene on-site throughout the weekend. Her daughter, Jenn Magnussen, creates stunning dried arrangements and will provide beautiful florals so guests can design their own nature-inspired pieces. Joining them, Jess Eischens creates handmade pottery that seamlessly blends function with artistry.

📍 *From Court Ave., turn west onto 6th Street, 1/2 block to Front Ave. then west onto 7th Street; house is on the right.*

13



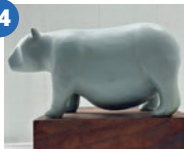
Brenda Mason

512 Park Avenue South, Park Rapids | 218-252-3045

Brenda creates beautiful, one-of-a-kind handmade clothing, crafting 80 to 90 percent of her unique line from repurposed and recycled fabrics. At her studio, she will host three talented guest artists: Becky Steinhoff with watercolors, jewelry, and cards; Becky Haaland showcasing colorful glass work and macrame; and Sandra Lof displaying intricate hand-woven textiles.



14



Art Project 605 - Detroit Lakes

605 Washington Avenue, Detroit Lakes | 917-971-7712

The gallery will exhibit a collection of works by artist Ellen Moses, including slip-cut ceramic sculptures, vibrant tile paintings, functional objects, and dishware.

Also on view will be limited-edition, small-scale bronze replicas of Wandering Bear, her famous large-scale public sculpture permanently located at Detroit Lakes' Ortenstone Gardens and Sculpture Park.

📍 *Art Project 605 is on Washington Ave. just north of Hwy. 10, next door to Magnolia Hair Salon*

15



Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center - Itasca State Park

36750 Main Park Drive, Park Rapids | 218-699-7251

The Itasca State Park archive dates back over 100 years and houses a robust collection of historical photos, documents, maps and memorabilia depicting the early days of tourism in Minnesota's oldest state park. People have traveled to visit the headwaters of the Mississippi River for generations and gone home with a camera full of memories that tell the stories of their time. From bumpy car tours and shore fishing to rustic camping and posh dining, a selection of the park's most iconic photos will be on display.

📍 *22 miles north of Park Rapids on US Hwy. 71. Enter Itasca State Park and navigate to the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center. The exhibit is located in the Visitor Center classroom.*

16



Peculiar Painter Gallery - Walker

405 Front Street West, Walker | 218-547-3729

Peculiar Painter is a unique art supply shop and gallery that features a diverse collection of local painters, potters, and jewelers. The shop showcases skilled creators from across the United States alongside imported Scandinavian pieces. Visitors can always discover fresh paintings by identical twins Jessie Stolzman and Josie Trudgeon, and both artists will be available in person at Peculiar Painter during Art Leap.

📍 *Peculiar Painter is located one block, toward Leech Lake, off Main street in Walker. Front Street West is next to the Spencer Ross American Legion. Look for the USA and Scandinavian flags.*

NORTH & WEST LOOP

Greater Park Rapids

17



Liz Shaw & Leann Willenbring

15410 County 18, Park Rapids | 218-732-9835

Liz Shaw, an acclaimed, award-winning photographer, artist and former photojournalist, captures everyday moments from a unique perspective. Her imagery and artistry favor a passion for the beautiful Northwoods, its living creatures and stunning treasures. Artist Leann Willenbring's passion is interpreting the natural world through expressive color. She strives to capture and share a sense of wonder through oil and acrylic painting, water marbling, printmaking and mixed media.

📍 *North of Park Rapids on County 18 - at the top of the hill, 1/2 mile east of the Logging Camp or 1 1/2 miles west of County 4.*

18



Suzanne Dinger

19715 Grandview Drive, Park Rapids | 908-752-2975

Suzanne Dinger is a retired university studio art professor who recently moved to the Park Rapids area full-time. Her diverse practice includes plein air painting, still life and portraiture. She works in oils, pastel and gouache mediums.

📍 *From County 7 at Zorbaz, turn left onto Grouse Road. The first left turn is Grandview Dr., driveway is on the left.*

19



Jeff Renner

25117 Hammock Trail, Park Rapids | 218-252-3654

Jeff Renner's new acrylic original paintings feature bison, bobcats and bighorn sheep as well as new bird pieces. His detailed artwork beautifully captures the wild spirit and natural textures of these majestic creatures.

📍 *From Park Rapids: 8.5 miles north on US Hwy. 71, east on County 40 (Many Lakes Rd) 1.1 miles, then left onto Hammock Dr. for 1/2 mile.*

20



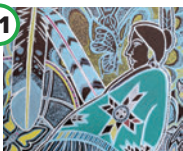
Osage Auditorium

54540 Hwy. 34, Osage

Grace Community Church will offer the Osage Auditorium to host artists for Art Leap (Saturday only) again this year. Featured creators include the talented duo Ann and Larry Vanderaa displaying unique pottery, Bob Ennen presenting detailed wood crafts, and Merle and Sue Hanson offering exquisite jewelry crafted from beautifully polished stones and beads.

📍 *The auditorium is located on the north side of Hwy. 34 in the middle of Osage, in front of Grace Community Church.*

21



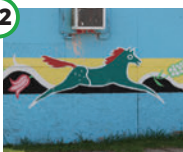
Bam'idizowigamig Creator's Place

48513 PowWow Highway, Ponsford | 218-616-2203

Find original Ojibwe paintings, exquisite beadwork, hand-made moccasins and woodcraft. Several talented indigenous artists will be present doing live beading and painting while others demonstrate moccasin making and hand drum making on site.

- 📍 *From Park Rapids: 9.5 miles west on Hwy. 34, 1/8 mile past Osage turn right on County 225. Stay on 225 for 9 miles. In Ponsford turn right on County 129 for 1 mile. On the right at intersection of County 129 & PowWow Hwy.*

22



Village of Pine Point Murals

Enjoy murals designed by Terri LaDuke and Annie Humphrey and painted by volunteers and Pine Point youth. Artists partnered with other tribes, states and national organizations, forging a new path to benefit the people of Pine Point.

- 📍 *From Creator's Place, turn left (west) on PowWow Hwy., look for homes and buildings on streets to the north and tour the neighborhood.*

23



Bruce Engebretson's Weaving Studio

21826 Hanna Ore Road, Osage | 218-573-3934

At Bruce Engebretson's weaving studio in the Smoky Hills, visitors will learn how material gets taken from flax and wool and made into woven material. There will be fresh bread and hot soup from the mud oven, coffee and maybe some weavings for sale.

- 📍 *West of Osage on MN Hwy. 34, turn south onto Hanna Ore Road (across from Smokey Hills Repair) one mile. Turn left and go one mile following the signs.*

24



Dale Cook & David Norstad

41248 County Road 126, Detroit Lakes | 701-306-4852

Dale Cook's works of wood and stone are skillfully created on a lathe and embellished with vibrant color and textures. He will do live demonstrations on the lathe. Paintings and collage works by the late David Norstad will be available next door.

- 📍 *25 miles west of Park Rapids on Hwy. 34 (6 miles west of Snellman), turn north on Becker County 37 then west on County 126 for 1.25 miles to Island Lake.*

25



Earl & Jeanette Wohlman

24524 Walden Road, Rochert | 218-841-1121

Earl crafts wood items including bird houses, tables, cup-boards and potting benches. Jeanette paints in oils and pastels. Guests Bruce and Ann Ostern create pottery items.

- 📍 *25 miles west of Park Rapids on Hwy. 34, north on Becker County 37 then west on County 126, right at 400th Ave., right on West Island Dr., right on Walden Road.*

SOUTH & EAST LOOP

26



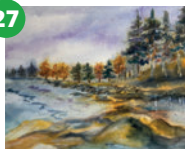
Kathleen Ristinen - Jonas

56631 County Highway 40, Menahga | 218-564-4299

Discover unique functional stoneware pottery, handwoven rugs, and hand-pulled original prints by Kathleen Ristinen (woodcuts) and Abner Jonas (intaglio).

📍 10 miles south on US Hwy. 71, right on Wadena Co. 16 (384th St.); continue 6 miles (becomes Becker Co. 40); turn left into driveway; park in yard beyond house.

27



Bickey Bender

15341 Cranberry Drive, Park Rapids | 218-616-0477

Bickey creates paintings and mixed media artwork. Her guest lineup features Nediha Kolakovic, jewelry; Kevin White, wood ornaments; Deane Johnson, photography; author Lauren Hill; Izzy Harmon, oil paintings; Marcy Jacobson, art and photography; plus Gail Ahart, basket weaving. Gina Singer will host a "make-and-take" printmaking experience.

📍 5 miles east of Park Rapids on state Hwy. 34 to Dorset Corner, south on County 11 for 3 miles, left on County 17 for 2 miles to Cranberry Drive. Look for red caboose.

28



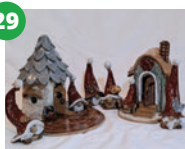
Kris & Bob Sauser - Creative Minds Studio

17793 Deep Woods Drive, Nevis | 218-252-2105

Kris and Bob Sauser create midfire stoneware, Raku pottery, lathe-turned wood, and fused glass. They will feature live pottery and Raku demonstrations, weather permitting.

📍 From Hwy. 34 east of Park Rapids, turn south on 219th Ave., left on 174th at stop sign, left on Crown Point Rd. At T, turn left on Deep Woods Dr. & left into Owl's Nest Resort/Creative Minds. Studio is on the left.

29



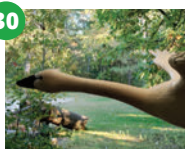
Dan & Mary O'Brien

24423 Evergreen Drive, Nevis | 651-470-3493

Dan and Mary O'Brien create wheel-thrown and hand-built pottery, unique sculptures, and artistic wooden birdhouses. Mary also paints acrylics on various mediums, and they will feature live wheel-throwing demonstrations throughout the weekend.

📍 From Nevis, south on County 13 approximately 4 miles, right on Evergreen Dr. and right at the "T". 24423 is on the right.

30



Paul Albright Sculpture Studio

28348 230th Street, Akeley | 218-252-1987

Paul Albright focuses on intricate wood carving and metal sculpture. His artwork can be found across businesses, public buildings, homes, and cabins—both inside and out. "I really look forward to seeing you again, or maybe meeting you for the first time."

📍 3 miles east of Nevis, turn south at mile marker 90 (off state Hwy. 34/ 230th Street) 1/4 mile, turn left (1st residence on left).

31



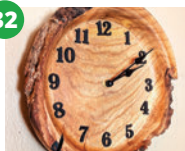
Fred McGregor

185 Crow Wing Lake Drive NE, Akeley | 218-616-2695

Find baskets, scenes, ornaments and flowers, all made from birch bark. Fred will demonstrate sewing a birch bark basket and Pam Carr will show how to make birch bark stars. Holly McGregor makes sweet grass baskets and Will Klaus offers antler creations.

📍 *From the junction of state Hwys. 64 and 34 in Akeley, turn north onto County 23 for .4 mile, turn left onto Crow Wing Lake Dr. N for .2 mile to McGregor's Tree Patch RV Park & Campground. Look for the tipi.*

32



Chuck Weygand - Rocky Shores Woodworking

20587 County Road 12, Akeley | 651-347-0787

Chuck Weygand produces wooden bowls hand turned on a lathe and clock creations. His daughter, Bobbie Jo Weygand, will offer creative textured greeting cards. Visitors will be invited to view digital picture frames showing videos of how Chuck turns bowls.

📍 *From Akeley: Turn south on Hwy. 64, 5 blocks then left on 4th Street / County 12 for 5 miles. Destination will be on the right.*

33



Sunshine & Willow

111 Bunyan Trails Road, Nevis | 218-652-3769

Sunshine & Willow is an art and home goods boutique highlighting talented community artists. Sunshine & Willow will host Kari Townsdin, a local K-12 teacher who paints nature and wildlife in a bold, colorful style. In addition to Townsdin, they will also feature works by local artists Marilana Sather, Kris Sauser and WolffWorks.

34



Cedar Swan Woodshop

108 Main Street, Nevis | 218-255-0655

Cedar Swan Woodshop works with 27 local creators and specializes in handcrafted local woodwork, custom kitchen ware, toys and gifts. Local woodworkers and artists will provide live demonstrations. See more at cedarswan.com.

📍 *The Woodshop is located across from the Post Office in downtown Nevis.*

35



Marsha Wolff - WolffWorks Studio

24969 Hardwood Drive, Nevis | 218-252-4112

Visitors will find mosaics, paintings, batiks, paintings and ceramics. Featured guests will be August and Elin Wolff, paintings and ceramics, and Dan Toso, ceramics. There will be a demonstration on marbling paper and making a little handmade book.

📍 *4 miles north of Nevis on County 2, left on 244th St., right on Hardwood Drive - then follow signs.*

TAKE THE leap!



Heartland Arts invites you to join the Art Leap driving tour to artists' studios and sites in Park Rapids, the Heartland Lakes area and along the Lake Country Scenic Byway. This event is free and open to the public. Visitors may want to start in Downtown Park Rapids. A loop south and east and another north and west of town will lead you through fall's scenic beauty in any direction. You'll find welcoming places as well as answers to questions about techniques and processes and where artists find inspiration.

Saturday, September 26: 10am-5pm

Sunday, September 27: 11am-4pm



**RAIN OR
Shine!**

SPECIAL MUSIC AT ARMORY ARTS & EVENTS CENTER

FRI., SEPT. 25: 6-8PM | \$10 @ DOOR

ST Art LEAP
with **PARADIGM**

Four local musicians play jazz-style renditions of 50s and 60s classics

SAT., SEPT. 26: 3-5PM | FREE

**PROJECT:
CONSTELLATION**

Grand Forks based acoustic duo perform a Scandinavian set

— ART LEAP IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH FUNDING PROVIDED BY —



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**REGION 2
ARTS
COUNCIL**

This activity is also made possible by the voters of Minnesota, through a grant from the Region 2 Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.



**HEARTLAND
Arts**

Art Leap is sponsored by Heartland Arts whose mission is to promote excellence in the arts through creation, education and performance.

Learn more at heartlandarts.org or on Facebook @ Park Rapids Arts