



The Kitchigami Regional Library Board established the Art Aware program to celebrate the creative relationship between the public library, its community, and the arts through the installation of site specific art in each of its branch libraries. Art Aware is a Library Legacy project, wholly funded by the Minnesota Legacy Amendment Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Park Rapids Area Library



Hours:

Monday 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

Tuesday 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Wednesday 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Thursday 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Friday 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

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Art Aware 2014
Jon Billing
Park Rapids Area Library



About the Art

“The artwork consists of a sculptural collage of objects that relate to both the library and the greater lakes country. The sculpture is formed around the idea of a library being a collection and assemblage of information. Mass amounts of information are collected and organized to make up the library. In a similar way, the sculpture is an assemblage of a large number of objects relating to the history and environment of Park Rapids and Northern Minnesota. Many objects come together to form a whole. The case is covered by windows reminiscent of those from the original Park Rapids Carnegie Library as well as from cabins and homes in the area, speaking to the area’s history of development, building, and architecture. Many of the objects that make up the sculpture originated from the Park Rapids area, and refer to the people, culture, and nature of Northern Minnesota in a way that reveals connections inherent between them.”

Artist, Jon Billing

Art in progress..



Meet the artist



I have always been interested in working with my hands. This concept first truly made sense to me when I went to school to learn how to build guitars. Through that experience I developed a deep love for working with wood. Over the past 10 years I’ve been working with wood as a furniture maker, carpenter, and artist.

While growing up, I was a regular visitor to Park Rapids, spending the weekends at our family’s cabin on Big Sand Lake. My love for the lake and woods led me to relocate in the area shortly after high school graduation when I worked with my dad to build a cabin while attending Bemidji State University. The work I create has always been informed by a fascination with nature, and Northern Minnesota is a place rich with materials and inspiration for new forms and ideas.

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