

the League of Longfellow artists

LoLa
art crawl

**the biggest
little neighborhood
art crawl
in Minnesota**

www.lolaartcrawl.com

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Photos and graphics are available in electronic format upon request

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VISIT ARTISTS IN THEIR HOMES AND AT UNIQUE SMALL SHOPS & CAFÉS THROUGHOUT THE LONGFELLOW NEIGHBORHOOD DURING THE LOLA ART CRAWL, SEP. 16–17, 2017

The League of Longfellow Artists (LoLa) invites the public to visit with and buy directly from artists and makers in this South Minneapolis neighborhood by the river known for its classic bungalows and natural beauty, during the 9th annual LoLa Art Crawl, Sep. 16–17, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

In this year's crawl, 103 artists will be showcasing their work at 63 sites, including artists' own homes, unique independent shops, cafés, and bistros. Directories with maps are available at LoLaArtCrawl.com/media, at businesses throughout the Longfellow neighborhood in September, and from participating artists during the crawl. Directories and other printed materials feature a painting of a Longfellow scene by artist Brendon Farley, who is participating at site 18.

The self-guided tour is free and allows visitors to enjoy and shop for locally created fine art and crafts at their own pace, with opportunities for food and refreshment at our independent cafés and bistros, many of which have pitched in to support LoLa with their sponsorships and enthusiasm.

Part of the fun of the LoLa Art Crawl is meeting artists in a low-key setting and talking with them about their work. Spouses Jean Shannon and Lee Love, whose home on 36th Ave. S. is site 16 this year, have been participating in LoLa since its beginning in 2009. Jean is a woodblock print artist and Lee is a potter.

"We like LoLa because we enjoy having our neighbors visit and see our creative work in our home setting. It's a chance to have extended conversations about the creative process with a wide variety of visitors in a relaxed and non-intimidating way," says Jean. "Also, we show with our long-time friend Theresa Harsma; it's enjoyable to hang out with our friend!"

LoLa has evolved over these nine years to include more artists, from 40 the first year to more than 100 now, and enjoy more support from local businesses. "At first, businesses were not very interested in what we were trying to do. Now many businesses are sponsoring, hosting artists, displaying ads, etc.," says Jean.

Even as it has grown, LoLa has maintained its uniquely intimate neighborhood-based feel. "The Twin Cities 'crawl scene' had been exclusively a warehouse/loft/studio thing," says Jean, adding, "LoLa was the first truly neighborhood crawl, and I think it still has a more human scale than the big extravaganza crawl events."

—[Photos and information about Jean and Lee follow]—

—LoLaArtCrawl.com—

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LoLa art crawl 2017

Saturday
SEPTEMBER 16

Sunday
SEPTEMBER 17

10am to 5pm both days



LoLa artists Lee Love and Jean Shannon with their Akita Inu puppy, Momo, and examples of their work, in front of their home in Longfellow. Jean and Lee are among the 103 artists who will be showcasing their work at the 2017 LoLa Art Crawl on September 16–17.

About LoLa artists Lee Love and Jean Shannon

Lee Love was born in Osaka, Japan, and grew up in Michigan. He moved to Minnesota in 1983 and met Jean Shannon that year at the Minnesota Zen Center. They have since married.

Lee developed an interest in pottery while studying anthropology. “I discovered there are many instances of ancient Asian pottery fragments found all over the world,” he says.

“Jean introduced me to renowned Minnesota potter Warren Mackenzie; I began taking pottery classes at the U of Minnesota.” Mackenzie then wrote a formal letter of introduction for Lee to Tatsuzo Shimaoka, who has been recognized as a National Living Treasure in Japan. “Shimaoka told me that his apprentice positions were filled, but there is always room for a student of Warren Mackenzie’s. I studied under him for three years in Mashiko, Japan. I stayed on there for another five years working and selling my pottery.”

Jean Shannon works in a few forms of printmaking as well as drawing and painting, but her primary medium is woodblock printing, which she studied in Japan from 1999 to 2009. “I was taught the *sosaku-hanga* method which stresses that the artist be the sole creator of the piece,” she says.

She was inspired to learn woodblock printmaking after she saw Hiroshige’s Japanese woodblock prints on display at the First Unitarian Society of Madison, Wisconsin, when she visited as a child. The prints had been donated by Frank Lloyd Wright, who designed the church, she recalls.

Details about the art pieces shown follow on the next page (over).

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Tea ceremony bowl, stoneware with flower stamp impression, white inlay on iron clay, 3”h x 4.5”w, by Lee Love

Artist statement:

“This is a matcha chawan, used in the tea ceremony. My teacher, Tatsuzo Shimaoka, was recognized as a National Living Treasure in Japan for his Jomon Zogan technique. Jomon is rope impression; Zogan is inlay. My teacher and I are inspired by Korean Choson era work (white slip on dark clay).

“In addition to rope impression, I also use various stamps, including flower stamps I picked up while being a guest artist at a Korean Tea Bowl Festival in Mungyeong, South Korea. The glaze I use is Shino. Inspired by the Japanese glaze of the same name and developed in the West at the University of Minnesota by a student of my mentor, Warren Mackenzie of Stillwater.”

—Lee Love



“Kuan Yin,” 12” x 18” Japanese-style woodblock print by Jean Shannon

Artist statement:

“Kuan Yin is the Chinese version of the Goddess of Mercy known across Asia; in Japan, she is called Kannon; in Tibet, she’s called Tara. She listens to the cries of the world and helps those who call on her.

“This image is based on a sweet Chinese folk toy in my collection. I’ve collected folk toys for a long time and I enjoy drawing my favorites over and over, making prints and even paintings based on these charming objects.”

—Jean Shannon

LoLa is the League of Longfellow Artists, a volunteer-driven community organization that showcases, nurtures and supports Longfellow arts and artists. We strive to represent the diversity of the Longfellow neighborhood through the arts. LoLa partners with neighborhood arts organizations, nonprofits, small businesses and residents to design and host a variety of events and activities that support LoLa artists at any stage in their creative lives, and invite and encourage community participation in the arts.

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