

Monumental Minnesota: A Guide to Outdoor Sculpture, by Moira F. Harris. St. Paul: Pogo Press, 1992. xii, 146 pp. Illustrations, bibliography, listing of outdoor sculpture, index. \$15.95 paper.

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Minnesota has a reputation in the Midwest and beyond for its support of the arts, especially sculpture; perhaps the best example is the Walker Art Center's Minneapolis Sculpture Garden. This book is concerned not only with the "fine art" found in museum or corporate collections, but with the entire range of outdoor sculpture in the state. Using this guide, a traveler can learn something about more than six hundred outdoor sculptures—whether folk (or outsider art), war memorials, or ice palaces—scattered from downtown Minneapolis to seldom-visited small towns.

The book begins with a survey of historical sculpture (the first outdoor sculpture appeared in 1857), then is arranged according to types of sculpture such as town symbols, chain saw or concrete sculpture. Some, though not enough, of these distinctive works are illustrated. A complete list of publicly accessible outdoor sculpture, including artist, date, dimensions and materials, and location, follows the text.

Harris is, for the most part, nonjudgmental as to the quality or significance of the sculpture. She often relates background and local context and how the works are viewed by the community around them. No individual artists are discussed in detail, but enough is usually said to give us some understanding of their work. The book is a non-condescending, good-humored survey of sculpture of nearly every variety, an enjoyable and useful companion for midwestern travelers, and a model for similar studies in other states. One of the sad aspects of Harris's research, however, is how often she must note the vandalism and outright destruction of public sculpture.

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