

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

NEWS RELEASE

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St. Paul Artist Kristi Abbott to Create 2018 Minnesota State Fair Commemorative Art

January 24, 2018

St. Paul, Minn. – St. Paul artist Kristi Abbott has been selected to create the Official 2018 Minnesota State Fair Commemorative Art. Her original interpretation of the Great Minnesota Get-Together will be unveiled at the State Fairgrounds in June.

“Visiting the Minnesota State Fair has always been such a fun and exciting event for me. My first visit was when I was 4 years old when I came over from Australia to visit family,” Abbott said. “I can still remember the sense of wonder I had. In my final piece, I look forward to capturing the sense of joy, excitement, energy, wonder and community that one feels when attending the fair.”

Abbott is a collage artist fascinated with the use of color, pattern and texture, and she combines these elements in her work in an innovative and exciting way by using a combination of papers, adhesives and embellishment materials. Each piece of art is built using multiple layers and made up of hidden imagery. Major influences in her work include pop art and culture, Hollywood, music and fashion. Her technique employs an exploratory and playful process.

A native of Australia, Abbott spent her life traveling between Sydney and visiting family in St. Paul, Minn. Growing up, she was seldom without a book, a Barbie doll and a set of coloring pencils. She was fascinated by art, travel, culture and making things with her hands from a very early age and chose to study art, theater and design throughout school. After a decade in the corporate arena and earning a graduate degree in design and an Executive MBA, she decided to leave the corporate world and move to Minnesota to pursue her true passion – art. Abbott’s work rose to notoriety when she was chosen as the featured artist for the Edina Art Show in 2015. Following the success of her first show, she was selected as the featured artist for Duluth’s Art in Bayfront Park and awarded a commission. In 2016, Abbott developed her Pop Icon Series that included stars such as David Bowie, Jimi Hendrix, Bill Murray and Prince. Her most recent body of work, the “I Am” series, is a collection of eight portraits along with a multi-media experience created for each one. Visit madebykristi.com for more information.

The commemorative poster, a limited number of signed prints and other merchandise featuring the art will be available for purchase after the June unveiling. Proceeds will support the Minnesota State Fair Foundation 501(c)(3) mission to preserve and improve State Fair buildings, fairgrounds and educational programs. The original art will be on display during the 12-day run of the 2018 State Fair. For more information about the fair’s commemorative art, visit mnstatefair.org/art.

The 2018 Minnesota State Fair Commemorative Art will be the 15th in a series of artwork created annually by Minnesota artists for the Great Minnesota Get-Together. In past years, artists have included: Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher (2004), Mary GrandPré (2005), Nancy Carlson (2006), Michael Birawer (2007), Edie Abnet (2008), Leo Stans (2009), Deborah Voyda Rogers (2010), Steve Thomas (2011), Joe Heffron (2012), Marie Olofsdotter (2013), Emily L. Taylor (2014), Adam Turman (2015), Michael Sweere (2016) and Ta-coumba Aiken (2017).

The Minnesota State Fair is one of the largest and best-attended expositions in the world, attracting nearly 2 million visitors annually. Showcasing Minnesota’s finest agriculture, art and industry, the Great Minnesota Get-Together is always 12 Days of Fun Ending Labor Day. Visit mnstatefair.org for more information. The 2018 Minnesota State Fair runs Aug. 23 - Labor Day, Sept. 3.