

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Aaron Laux Sculpture Showcased at Grand Opening of Pine Healthcare Campus

Madison, WI – June 15, 2017 – Artist Aaron Laux of Madison, WI recently completed a commissioned wall sculpture for the Pine Healthcare Campus in Sandstone, Minnesota. The art was commissioned by the North Pine Area Hospital District (Hospital District) for their new Pine Healthcare Campus. The sculpture was showcased at the May Grand Opening celebration attended by over 700 people.

As a medical facility, the Board of the Hospital District embraced the scientifically proven health benefits of nature art and a natural environment. The Campus is nestled in the white pine forests of northern Minnesota and having nature both outside and inside the facility gives a very unique, healing experience.

“We are delighted with the ‘Twins’ art work of Aaron Laux,” states Ron Osladil, Chairman of the North Pine Area Hospital District. “This striking piece of art in our lobby is warm and inviting for patients, families, health care staff and others who visit this state-of-the-art medical facility. His work is a great compliment with the other original art work commissioned for this Campus.”

“My entire career as an artist and my entire body of work reflects my passion for the natural world,” states artist Aaron Laux. “I have used Biophilic design to leverage my goal of evoking a sense of wonder for nature in the built spaces of our modern world. The interest from a wide

range of organizations and businesses in this type of art reflects a growing understanding of the economic, healing and productivity value in creating a calming, healthy setting.”

Biophilic design is increasingly being used in health care facilities, schools, public spaces and corporate work environments. Human Spaces Report found that “contact with nature and design elements which mimic natural materials have been shown to positively impact health, job performance and concentration and to reduce anxiety and stress. Additionally, Economics of Biophilia report “savings of over \$93 million could be saved annually in healthcare cost as a result of providing patients with views to nature.”

This artwork is a sculptural relief that features walnut wood, contemporary glass mosaic, architectural rice paper and LED back lighting. An adaption of a "flint knapping" technique was used on the glass to give depth and texture to the surface. Naturally weathered wood and bark were also used as mosaic elements along with carving. Specialty LED components were used to illuminate the acrylic backed rice paper.

The art committee wanted to pay homage to the local natural ecosystem with the white pine being chosen as the emblem to represent this landscape. The work is an abstract rendition of twin white pines growing from a rocky crag with a sky background. The committee also asked that the artwork have a dramatic effect and be a focal point for the atrium. This was achieved through the dynamic composition and lighting effect which gives the sensation of looking through a window into a wholly different landscape.

Photos of the ‘Twins’ work in the Pine Healthcare Campus follow. For more information about Aaron Laux go to www.aaronlauxdesign.com.

For information on Biophilic design, which is quoted here, go to:

“Human Spaces Report” Retrieved on May 12, 2017 from:
<http://humanspaces.com/report/unique-research-into-biophilic-design-2/>

“The Economics of Biophilia” Retrieved on May 12, 2017 from:
<https://www.terrapinbrightgreen.com/reports/the-economics-of-biophilia/#driving-profit-margins-in-the-workplace>

About North Pine Area Hospital District

The North Pine Area Hospital District is a Minnesota political subdivision whose purpose is to ensure that area residents have access to high quality health care. Hospital Districts have taxing authority to acquire, improve and run hospital and nursing home facilities. The North Pine Area Hospital District built the Pine Healthcare Campus, which opened in May 2017. The Hospital District contracts and leases space for hospital services with Essentia Health and the clinic and pharmacy services are provided by Gateway Family Health Clinic and Thrifty White Pharmacy. Golden Horizons Assisted Living and Specialty Care opens the summer of 2017 at the Pine Healthcare Campus. The Hospital District is governed by a Board of Directors composed of 19 appointed/elected individuals for four year terms. For more information about the Hospital District, the Pine Healthcare Campus and construction updates, go to www.PineHospitalDistrict.com.



