

# 2014 OAK PARK SCULPTURE WALK

It's a perfect Summer stroll through Oak Park's newly minted Hemingway District, a self-guided tour of world-class sculpture — the winners of a select, juried competition — accompanied by historic Midwest architecture, fine dining and first-rate shopping. **Start your journey at the Oak Park Visitor's Center. And enjoy!**

## 1 "Prairie Song.Q"

Guy Bellaver

Our first sculpture was inspired by, of all things, protons and antiprotons colliding at Chicago's Fermilab. As part of the artist's "quark" series, this sculpture shows the organic side of particle physics, as a pop of color against a rich earth-brown reflects the energy of life as the Midwest prairie awakes in springtime with an explosion of vigor and growth.

## 2 "The Schwinn Boys Choir"

Jennifer Meyer

One morning, Jennifer Meyer found a pile of broken bikes in her yard; so she reassembled them as she wondered how they got there. Perhaps because Meyer is a counselor as well as an artist, it's natural that the unclaimed bikes whimsically morphed into the kids who discarded them. And their reaction when confronted about how the bikes ended up in her yard in the first place: "Don't ask me!"

## 3 "Nest"

Vivian Visser

Look up on the left side of the metal awning. You'll see a large vessel or shelter — maybe a home for animals or large birds — comfortably aloof and protected from the man-made commotion below. Made of carefully woven saplings, "Nest" reflects nature's beautiful, utilitarian architecture. After protecting its inhabitants through wind and snow, it will eventually break down, compost, and join the soil beneath us.

## 4 "Points of Influence"

Darrin Hallowell

Created specifically for this site, six concrete columns represent human figures and invite us to walk among them. Framed between 20th Century buildings, each modernist column has a single side with the imprint of a different figure, inviting us to stop and interrogate the person we see. A sense of community is established by funnel-like holes which link each figure visually to the space we all share with one another.

## 5 "Spiral"

Maureen Bergquist Gray

Inspired by the world's late-1970s preoccupation with "crop circles" — huge, unexplained agricultural phenomena in England and elsewhere — Ms. Gray folded in her own interest in the "expression of universal energy" to create this piece. "Spirals" begins with defined circles and draws larger inferences about widening our perspective into both the unknown and the things we take for granted.

## 6 "Limbic No. 1"

Karen Gubitza

Direct from the Illinois farm where she's restored a native short-grass prairie and indigenous pine and hardwood forests, Karen Gubitza hand-gathers all of her materials. Then she uses traditional weaving methods to create modern, complex structures that bear a strong resemblance to fine art. Hand-woven onsite, this work evokes an increasing sense of wonder as the viewer draws closer.

## 7 "Yosemite"

Brandon Davis

As counterpoint to our previous piece, Davis brandishes a welder's torch and scorched pine to retrace his childhood memories of Yosemite National Park. The son of an auto mechanic, Davis draws from the scrap-yard to assemble his noble ram around a charred wood torso. If the torso expresses conditions that foretell death, the steel can symbolize a way — maybe the only way — to save the beast for posterity.

## 8 "Torn Muse"

Jaci Willis

These shining arcs represent the Mandorla, an ancient symbol of the feminine creative force, equally prominent in medieval Christianity. The various sizes reflect generations of women that influence those who follow, even today. The glass pieces are the radiant, consecrated places in each of our lives. As we walk around the piece, we see the motion, the beauty, and the calming strength of the Mandorla.

## 9 "Cluster"

Vivian Visser

This second piece from Vivian Visser is formed by hollow spheres, woven together and "clinging" both to one another and around a tree. "Cluster" explores natural structures that latch similarly to one another, structures as disparate as Burdock prickles, fish eggs and bird nests. The arrangement also reflects nature's capacity to protect the core family even as its members are encouraged to explore beyond.

## 10 "Emergent Behavior"

Bryce Olen Robinson

The two-dimensional "crop circles" we visited earlier become three-dimensional in Robinson's piece — a reflection on Emergence Theory's view that complex systems are the result of many simple interactions. These rings are organized in such a way that, as we walk around them, they create their own complexity of shadow, balance, strength and light, "relating as the cell to the body, as the ant to the colony, as the individual to society."

## 11 "Strands"

Bounnak Thammavong

No piece on this year's Walk confounds and amuses like this one. Inspired by the artist's Laotian heritage and third-world agricultural and weaving tools, he presents a large-scale implement, hybridized and abstracted. To attempt an understanding of this piece, each of us must decide what's going on here. A spindle, a wobbly pestle, a sundial? What do you think? And what does it mean?

## 12 "Natural Wonders"

Michele Moushey Dale

We conclude with a child, a spyglass and a turtle. No abstractions here. This figurative sculpture is not reflecting a feeling, but it is telling a story, a story of discovery. What is the boy looking for, and what does he see... we're not sure. But we know he's in easy harmony with his companions, those fellow travelers looking out for each other and toward the world around them. It's quite an adventure.

# Stroll, Admire, Discuss. (Eat & Shop, too.)

## 2014 OAK PARK SCULPTURE WALK

This program was developed by the Oak Park Public Arts Advisory Commission and the Village of Oak Park, in cooperation with the Hemingway District.

Design: a5 (a5inc.com)

Printing: The Printing Store, Oak Park

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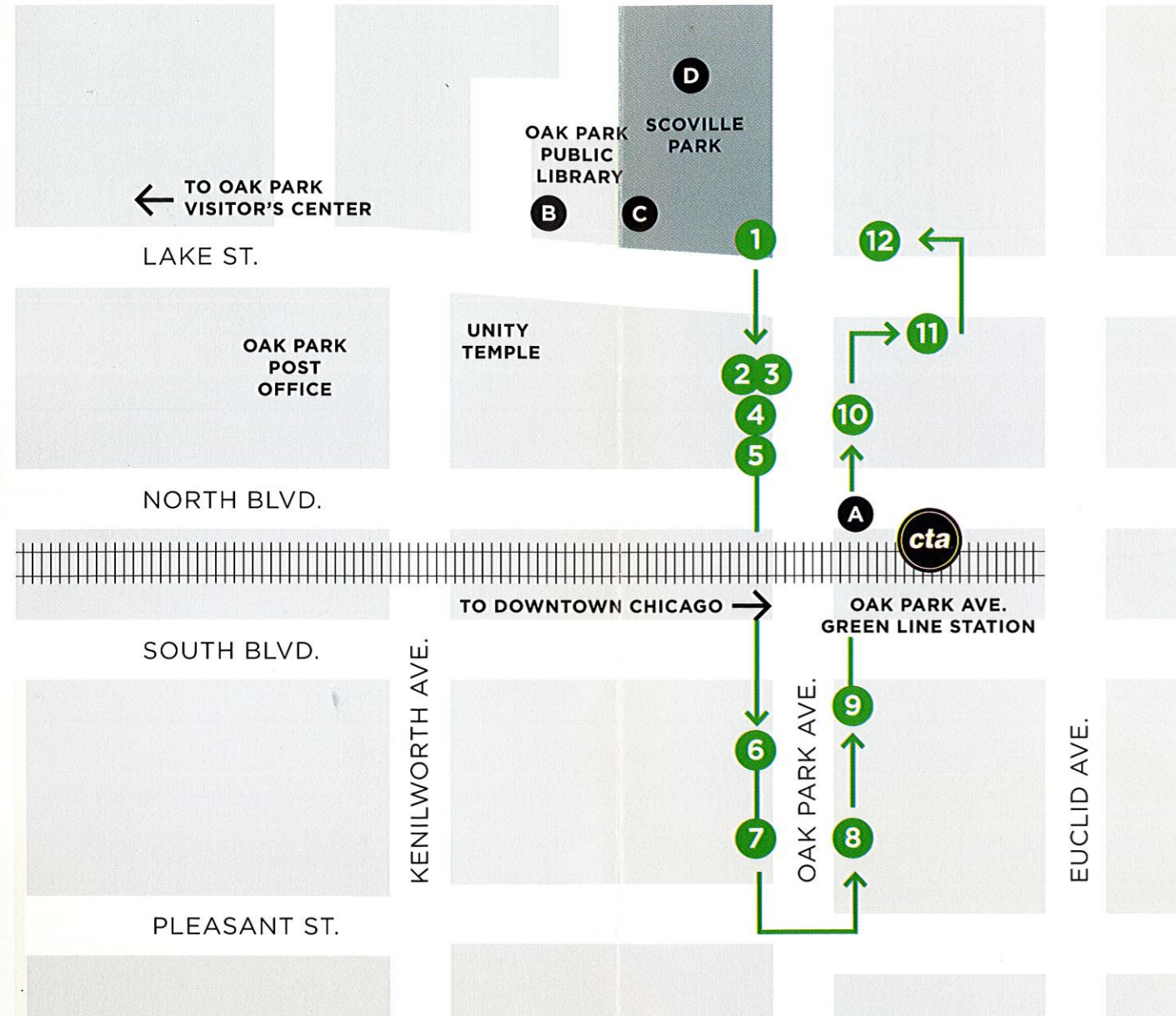


## 2014 OAK PARK SCULPTURE WALK



Now and all through the Summer!  
[www.oak-park.us/sculpturewalk](http://www.oak-park.us/sculpturewalk)

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## Permanent Art Collection

- A** "Innerchange" / Mike Hansel, 2001
- B** "Unity & Growth" / Carol Harrison, 1966 & Public Art Gallery (2nd floor)

- C** "Percy L. Julian, Ph.D." / Erik Blome, 2003
- D** "Peace Triumphant" / Gilbert Riswold, 1925



**1**  
 Scoville Park  
 NW corner of Oak Park Ave. and Lake St.  
**"Prairie Song.Q"**  
 2011  
 Fiberglass and painted steel rod  
 Guy Bellaver  
 St. Charles, IL



**2**  
 Magic Tree Bookstore  
 137 N. Oak Park Ave.  
**"The Schwinn Boys Choir"**  
 2013  
 Found object sculpture  
 Jennifer Meyer  
 Lansing IL



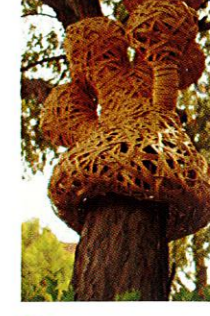
**3**  
 Picasso Fine Jewelry  
 137 N. Oak Park Ave.  
**"Nest"**  
 2014  
 Woven saplings  
 Vivian Visser  
 Chicago, IL



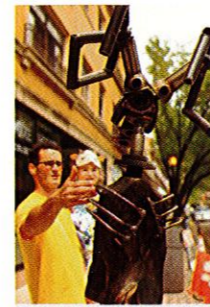
**4**  
 Bramble, Avenue Nail Spa  
 115-129 N. Oak Park Ave.  
**"Points of Influence"**  
 2014  
 Concrete  
 Darrin Hollowell  
 Chicago, IL



**5**  
 Weichert Realtors - Nickel Group  
 101 N. Oak Park Ave.  
**"Spiral"**  
 Steel with powder coat  
 2013  
 Maureen Bergquist Gray  
 Interlochen, MI



**6**  
 Oak Park Township  
 105 S. Oak Park Ave.  
**"Limbic No. 1"**  
 2014  
 Woven natural materials  
 Karen Gubitza  
 Oak Park, IL



**7**  
 Law Office of Angelika Kuehn  
 171 S. Oak Park Ave.  
**"Yosemite"**  
 2013  
 Welded steel and burned pine  
 Brandon Davis  
 Moreno Valley, CA



**8**  
 St. Edmund Parish  
 188 S. Oak Park Ave.  
**"Torn Muse"**  
 2012  
 Stainless steel and glass  
 Jaci Willis  
 Peoria, IL



**9**  
 Tree  
 SE corner South Blvd/Oak Park Ave.  
**"Cluster"**  
 2014  
 Willow  
 Vivian Visser  
 Chicago, IL



**10**  
 Gloor Realty and il Vicolo Trattoria  
 114-116 N. Oak Park Ave.  
**"Emergent Behavior"**  
 2014  
 Mild steel and enamel  
 Bryce Olen  
 Robinson  
 Mishawaka, IN



**11**  
 Starbucks  
 711 Lake St.  
**"Strands"**  
 2012  
 Corten steel  
 Bounnak Thammavong  
 Swisher, IA



**12**  
 Geppetto's Toy Box  
 730 Lake St.  
**"Natural Wonders"**  
 2011  
 Bronze  
 Michele Moushey Dale  
 Edgerton, WI

**Note: Almost all of our sculptures stand on public walkways near retailers and eating establishments. Thank you for being respectful of shoppers, diners and fellow passers-by.**

**A Traffic Note: Always look both ways when crossing our often-busy streets. Try to cross only at stoplights and crosswalks.**