

WEISMAN ART MUSEUM

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Prince from Minneapolis

December 9, 2017 through June 17, 2018



Terry Gydesen, *Prince at Montjuic, Barcelona, Spain, 1993*. ©Terry Gydesen/photographer

MINNEAPOLIS – The Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota presents *Prince from Minneapolis* (December 9, 2017 – June 17, 2018). The exhibition combines four Twin Cities-based photographers that documented Prince’s early and pre-fame career with artworks that were inspired by the artist. Prince was proud to hail from Minneapolis. Throughout his life and fabled career, he continued to live and work in Minnesota, putting Minneapolis firmly on the map of the music industry with the Minneapolis Sound. Perhaps the only global megastar who has remained so embedded in the cultural life of his hometown, Prince was a part and maker of what Minneapolis and Minnesota are.

The exhibition is in conjunction with the April 16 – 18, 2018, University of Minnesota symposium of the same name, *Prince from Minneapolis*. The exhibition and symposium

explore Prince's unique relation to Minneapolis and Minnesota. This joint project will probe issues including Prince's prestige and legacy, consider how Minneapolis was presented in *Purple Rain*, and what kind of utopia Paisley Park embodies.

In the Carlson Gallery, images offer a look at Prince's mode of operation in the studio and on stage. Four featured photographers Allen Beaulieu, Nancy Bundt, Terry Gydesen, and Robert Whitman, shot Prince in his early years, helping to craft and disseminate his now iconic image and identity.



Photo by Zane Spang.

The exhibition continues in the Target Studio and will include work by artists who have been inspired by Prince, such as Troy Gua, a Seattle-based artist, who uses art doll recreations of the megastar in different settings, and the Mexican American de la Torre brothers, who created memorial spirit figures in glass at Minneapolis's FOCl glass studio days after Prince's death. Also on view will be a portrait by famed Minnesotan

seed artist, Lillian Colton, a painting representing city walls covered with flyers and graffiti by the Turkish painter Burhan C. Doğançay, and a Prince bicycle by independent frame builder Eric Noren of Peacock Groove. The bike won Best in Show and Best Theme Bike at the 2017 North American Handmade Bicycle Show, and was commissioned by and is on loan from Anna Schwinn, great-great-granddaughter of the legendary late nineteenth-century bicycle pioneer, Ignaz Schwinn. Minneapolis-based muralist Rock Martinez will install a newly commissioned mural of Prince that will make its debut at the exhibition preview party.

The Weisman Art Museum is proud to partner with its University faculty colleagues to present this unique look at one of the most gifted, enigmatic, and well-known performers and activists in Minnesota and U.S. history.

RELATED PROGRAMS

Exhibition Preview Party December 8, 2017 | 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

\$25 Admission | \$10 UMN students (with ID)

Get your groove on and honor the purple one. This exhibition preview party will give you a sneak peek at the *Prince from Minneapolis* exhibit and will be sure to spark your favorite Prince memory (or make a new one). View rarely seen photos from Twin Cities-based photographers, lounge in purple luxury, nosh on small bites, and of course soak in the sounds of DJs who love Prince as much as you do. Tickets at Z.UMN.EDU/PurpleDance

Preview Party Radio Sponsor



Prince in Perspective January 17, 2018 | 7:00 p.m.

What was it like to be behind the scenes with Prince? Hear from renowned journalistic photographer Terry Gydesen about her experience shooting Prince's 1993 New Power Generation Tour in Europe. Gydesen will talk about her process as a photographer as well as her experience photographing Minneapolis's beloved purple one. Z.UMN.EDU/purplevision

Prince from Minneapolis Symposium April 16-18, 2018 | princefromminneapolis.org

An international conference will be held at the University of Minnesota. This symposium will investigate Prince's unique relation to Minneapolis and Minnesota. Questions to be explored by presenters are: What demographic, cultural, and economic conditions were in place for Prince to emerge as a musical genius? How was a new sound born from a small African American population in a very white and segregated state? How did he reinvent the aesthetics and politics of blackness? How did Minnesotans, both queer and straight, react to Prince's ambivalent black male sexuality? Confirmed speakers include Daphne Brooks, Jeff Chang, and Greg Tate, including local activists, artists, and journalists.

ABOUT WAM

Since its origin in 1934, the Weisman Art Museum has been a teaching museum for the University of Minnesota. Today, education remains central to the museum's mission to create art experiences that spark discovery, critical thinking, and transformation, linking the University and the community. The Weisman Art Museum is located at 333 East River Road, Minneapolis, on the University of Minnesota campus. Admission to exhibition galleries is always free.

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