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**INTRODUCING NORTHERN SPARK 2011:
FIRST ALL NIGHT ART TAKE OVER OF THE TWIN CITIES**

*Minnesota to Get Overnight "White Night" Art Festival This Summer;
Join Worldwide Nuit Blanche Movement*

MINNEAPOLIS, February 2, 2011 – It's no secret Minneapolis St Paul is one of the leading centers of art in the United States. But on June 4 this year, the Twin Cities will join for the first time, the worldwide *Nuit Blanche* arts movement by hosting "Northern Spark" (www.northernspark.org) the area's first ever, all-night long arts festival.

For one night only, more than 60 regional and national artists together with the Twin Cities' arts community will display new art installations at public places and unexpected locations throughout the city. Directed and produced by Northern Lights.mn and funded by the MN State Arts Board, Northern Spark takes place this summer from sunset on June 4 (8:55 p.m.) until the morning of June 5, 2011 (sunrise 5:28 a.m.).

"The Twin Cities has an amazing art culture and reputation," says Northern Lights director, Steve Dietz. "Our aim is to really showcase that artistic excellence in a way never quite seen before by transforming the cities' urban landscapes into a Twin Cities-wide art gallery for one special night."

The Northern Spark event will include a wide diversity of art forms and projects including multi-story projections, audio environments with vistas, installations traveling down the Mississippi on barges, houseboats and paddleboats, headphone concerts, and the use of everything from bioluminescent algae and sewer pipes for organs to more traditional media such as banjos and puppets.

One of the most highly anticipated installations is Jim Campbell's "Scattered Light" from New York's Madison Square Park, in which LED light bulbs suspended in a cube-shape on high tensile wire blink on and off to recreate the forms of pedestrians' movements in three dimensions. Other artists involved in the *nuit blanche* include Christopher Baker, Phillip Blackburn, Body Cartography, Bart Buch, Barbara Claussen, Wing Young Huie,

Debora Miller, Minneapolis Art on Wheels, Ali Momeni, Janaki Ranpura, Red76, Rigo 23, Jenny Schmid, Andrea Stanislav, Piotr Szyhalski, Diane Willow, Roman Verostko, Liu Xuguang, Marcus Young, and others.

The event is a collaboration – rarely seen on this kind of scale - of more than 40 partners each of which will sponsor one or more projects for the duration of the night. The goal is to showcase the urban splendor of the Twin Cities in a unique way, introducing a broad and diverse audience to innovative local and national talent in an inspiring journey through the night.

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About Northern Lights

[Northern Lights.mn](http://NorthernLights.mn) is a roving, collaborative, interactive media-oriented, arts agency from the Twin Cities for the world. It presents innovative art in the public sphere, both physical and virtual, focusing on artists creatively using technology, both old and new, to engender new relations between audience and artwork and more broadly between citizenry and their built environment.

About *Nuit Blanche* events (source Wikipedia.org)

Nuit Blanche (literally White Night, All-Nighter or Sleepless Night in [French](#)) or Light Night is an annual all-night or nighttime [arts festival](#). Its exact beginning is disputed between [Paris](#), [St Petersburg](#), and [Berlin](#), but, taking elements from all of these, the idea of a night-time festival of the arts has spread around the world since 1997, taking hold from [Toronto](#) to [Tel Aviv](#) and [Lima](#) to [Leeds](#). A *Nuit Blanche* will typically have museums, private and public [art galleries](#), and other cultural institutions open and free of charge, with the center of the city itself being turned into a *de facto* art gallery, providing space for [art installations](#), performances (music, film, dance, performance art), themed social gatherings, and other activities.

Participating Organizations

Northern Spark participating organizations include: 1419 Artists in Residence, All My Relations Art, American Composer's Forum, The Art Institutes International Minnesota, Art Shanty Projects, Beijing Film Academy, Black Dog Cafe + Wine Bar, Burnet Gallery at Le Meridien Chambers Minneapolis, College of Visual Arts, The Film Society Minneapolis/Saint Paul, Forecast Public Art, Franklin Art Works, The Friends of Saint Paul Public Library, Highpoint Center for Printmaking, Intermedia Arts, Kulture Klub Collaborative, Landmark Center, Le Meridien Chambers Minneapolis, MAW, Macalester College, McNally Smith College of Music, Midway Contemporary Art, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, The Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minnesota Museum of American Art, mnartists.org, [mn original](http://mnoriginal.com), Mpls Photo Center, Northrop Concerts and Lectures, Public Art Saint Paul, Rain Taxi Review of Books, Regis Center for Art, ro/lu, Saint Paul Public Library, Schubert Club, Saint Anthony Falls Laboratory, Saint Paul

Riverfront Corporation, Science Museum of Minnesota, Soap Factory, SooVac, W
Minneapolis-The Foshay, Walker Art Center, Works Progress

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