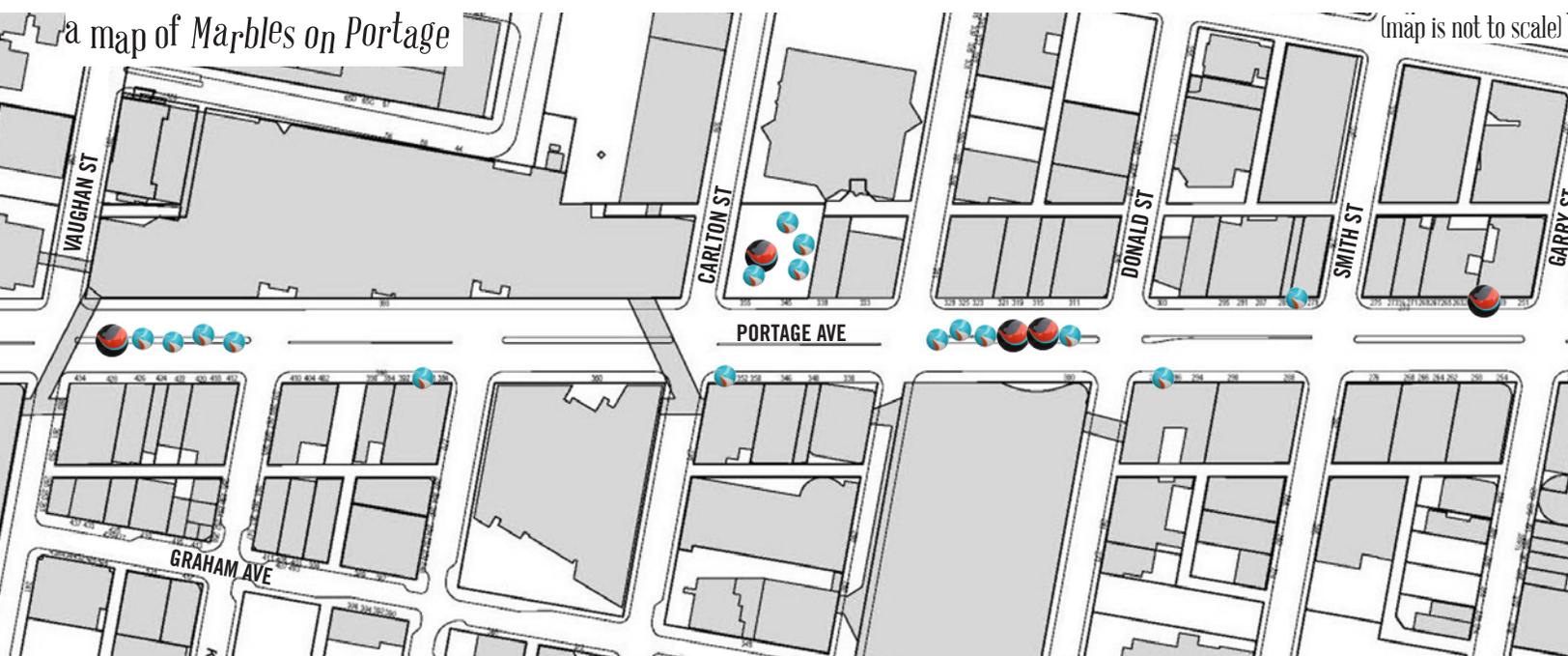




Marbles on Portage

by Erica Swendrowski



Thank you!

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all about

Marbles on Portage by Erica Swendrowski

Fibreglass, plants, light

Grand Opening July 31, 2012

A collaboration of the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ and the Winnipeg Arts Council Public Art Program

about the artist

Winnipeg artist and landscape designer, Erica Swendrowski, combines her formal training in Landscape Architecture from the University of Manitoba and her passion for place-making with sculpture to create amusing, out-of-the-ordinary experiences within the public realm. Interested in altering human activity and the perception of place, Swendrowski responds to existing spaces with familiar, slightly altered objects from everyday life. The objects, placed in surprising and seemingly out-of-context spaces, reintroduce a familiarity of place through memory and personal associations. *Marbles on Portage*, is Erica's fourth public art installation in Winnipeg following *Jelly Bean Park (2006)*, *Hearts on Portage (2007)*, and *living living room (2011)*.

about the creation of the marbles

There are 16, 3' marbles and five, 4'6" diameter marbles along Portage. The marbles are made out of 6 different colours of gel coat resin that is sprayed into 2 separate mould halves. The two pieces are then glued together forming the sphere. The ball is then sanded to get rid of any imperfections and the seam finished/smoothed over with bondo. The designs were then taped out and painted onto the marbles with automotive paint. The glowing lights are achieved from the natural gel coat colour that is covered with two to three layers of top coat. A 100 Watt bulb is placed inside the marble to create the glowing effect. They were installed by groundhog anchors. The plants are planted in a felt 'pocket' inside the marble.

about marbles

Did you know?

- The Marble originated in Harappan civilization (3300-1300 BCE) in Pakistan near the river Indus. Marbles are also often mentioned in Roman literature, and there are many examples of marbles from ancient Egypt. They were commonly made of clay, stone or glass. In North America, engraved marbles have been found in ancient Native American earthen mounds.
- The World Marble Championships have been held at Tinsley Green, West Sussex, England since 1932. The Green itself has been the site of marble contests for many centuries. Records trace its marble history back at least as far as 1588.
- One of the most expensive antique toys on the market is a sulphide marble. Made around 1900, it is a clear marble enclosing a depiction of former president Teddy Roosevelt. Only three are known to exist, which explains the \$4500 it fetched at auction.