



Julian Voss-Andreae's sculptural installation *Spannungsfeld* for the University of Minnesota's new Physics and Nanotechnology Building was inspired by a view of the human body through the lens of quantum physics.



**PROJECT DETAILS**

**Submitter Name + Company:** Julian Voss-Andreae

**Submitter Location:** Portland, Oregon, USA

**Client Name + Company:** University of Minneapolis

**Project Name:** Spannungsfeld

**Project Location:** Minneapolis

**Project Type:** Public art

**Materials:** Stainless steel, granite

**Size:** 12' x 70' x 6' (4 x 21 x 2 m)

**Budget:** \$319,000

**Start/Finish Dates:** 2013-2014

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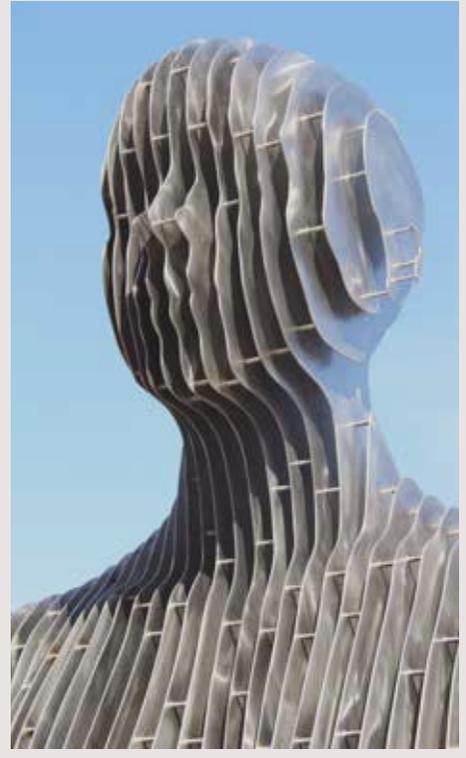
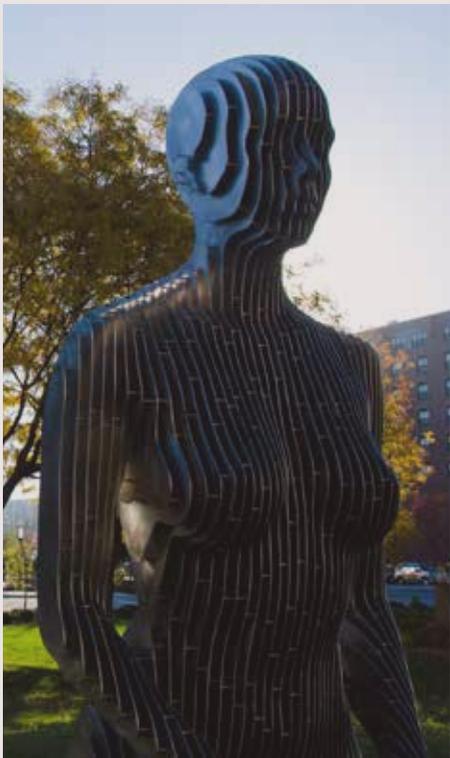


The German title of the installation (literally “tension field”) originated in physics but is used in contemporary German almost exclusively in a

metaphorical sense, implying a dynamic tension, often between polar opposites, that permeates everything in its vicinity.

Spannungsfeld is made up of two 10’ (3m) tall figures in a basic kneeling pose, a male, and a female, facing each other. The two figures represent nature’s omnipresent





pairs of opposites. These dualities are a fundamental facet of nature and are found in Western science as well as in Eastern traditions. They are critical to the emergence of new levels of meaning in science, and, in the case of the two human genders, critical to the emergence of life.

Like the positive and negative electric charge in physics or the yin-yang in Chinese philosophy, neither woman nor man can exist without the other.

Inspired by quantum physics, the artist's professional background, Voss-Andreae

developed an approach that transforms the human figure into a large number of vertically arranged, parallel steel slices with constant spacing. This style creates the impression of a three-dimensional topological map, evoking the fundamental scientific act of measuring the world. The







# Winner : Education





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*My goal is to convey elements of our spiritual essence and open our eyes to the miraculous nature of the underlying nature of reality.”*

*“The lessons of quantum physics offer us a glimpse of a different way of dealing with each other and dealing with our world and I feel it is critical that those embryonic ideas get out into the cultural mainstream.*



### About the Artist



Julian Voss-Andreae is a German sculptor based in Portland, Oregon. Starting out as a painter he later changed course and studied physics, mathematics, and philosophy at the Universities of Berlin, Edinburgh and Vienna. Voss-Andreae pursued his graduate research in quantum physics, participating in an experiment considered one of the modern milestones of unifying our everyday intuition with the famously bizarre world of quantum physics. He moved to the United States to study Sculpture at the Pacific Northwest College of Art from where he graduated in 2004. Voss-Andreae's work, often inspired by his background in science, has captured the attention of multiple institutions and collectors in the United States and abroad. Recent institutional commissions include large-scale outdoor monuments for Rutgers University, the University of Minnesota, Texas Tech University, and the Georgia Institute of Technology. Voss-Andreae's work has been featured in print and broadcast media worldwide.