

No. 43
May 7, 2004
Immediate Release

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**ARTISTS, ARCHITECTS, AND DESIGNERS CREATE MINIATURE GOLF COURSE IN
MINNEAPOLIS SCULPTURE GARDEN**

**WALKER IN THE ROUGH TO BE OPEN MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
THROUGH LABOR DAY**

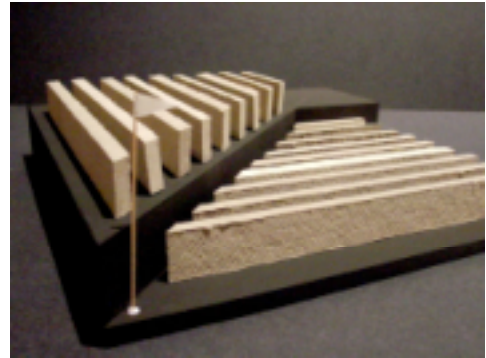
An ice-fishing shack that's home to a frozen walleye, an interactive bowling alley, a twisty pachinko game, and the ruins of a building demolished in 1933 are among the designs for **Walker in the Rough**, a 10-hole miniature golf course in the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden at the Walker Art Center open to visitors from Friday, May 28, through Labor Day. Though these stylish holes can't be placed on par with mini golf's customary roadside-art standards of taste, they have been created especially for this setting. Installed in the Garden's north end, **Walker in the Rough** offers 10 flights of fancy designed by local artists, architects, and designers. Course hours are Thursday–Friday, 10 am–8 pm; Saturday, 10 am–5 pm; Sunday, 11 am–5 pm. Open Monday, May 31 (Memorial Day), Monday, July 5, and Monday, September 6 (Labor Day), from 11 am–5 pm. Course fee is \$5 (\$3 Walker members, seniors, students; free children age 5 and under). On Sunday, June 20, fathers play for free in honor of Father's Day. Between 5 and 8 pm on Thursday nights, players receive coupon offers from Sebastian Joe's, Joe's Garage, and Bar Lurcat. Players can finish off a round of golf with a round of drinks, dinner, or dessert at these neighboring establishments.

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WALKER IN THE ROUGH: ARTIST-DESIGNED MINI GOLF

Frank's Frolic

Referencing minimalist art, this hole incorporates a square two-level platform covered in black carpet with a series of parallel walls covered in grey carpet. Thomas Oslund, architect; Don McNeil, visual arts curator



Frank's Frolic
Created by Thomas Oslund and Don McNeil
Photo credit: Courtesy Walker Art Center

Pachinko Generation

A six-foot ramp leads to a Pachinko-style game; patterns on Pachinko board change with each ball.

Luke Burgdorf, visual artist; Zander Brimijoin, designer

Bolting for Gowlers

Astroturf putting green meets a hardwood bowling alley.

Karl Frankowski, visual artist/architect

Mini Golf Smackdown

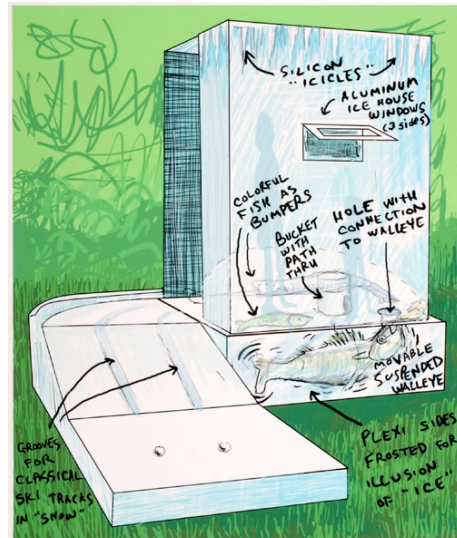
Questioning the passive competition of traditional golf, this square hole features a grid pattern of 25 squares that is played simultaneously by multiple players. Squares will be rearranged periodically.

Daniel Vercruysse, architect; Takuma Handa, architect

Winter in Summer: Ice Fishing House

A pair of ski tracks in the snow lead to an ice-fishing shack, a walleye under the ice wiggles when player sinks the putt.

Bill Gorcica, visual artist



Winter in Summer: Ice Fishing House
Created by Bill Gorcica
Photo credit: Courtesy Walker Art Center

O-par-ation

Takeoff on the surgical game Operation. When player misses the hole, a buzzer goes off and the patient's nose lights up.

Troy Kampa, architect

Courthouse Folly

Built in the spirit of an 18th-century English architectural folly using the carved Kasota stone from the old Ramsey County courthouse.

Brian Nowak, landscape architect; Clayton Johnson, landscape architect

Life Sucks

There are three possible paths for this hole: the "hit-the-jackpot and strike it rich life of an American Idol celebrity rock star," the slacker/couch potato, or the office grind. Everyone thinks they can make it into the rock star life, but depending on luck, you may end up in one of the other two less desirable paths.

Burlesque Design of North America: Wes Winship, George Thompson, Mike Davis, Aaron Horkey, Skye Rossi, Larry Winship (designers)



Life Sucks

Created by Burlesque Design of North America: Wes Winship, George Thompson, Mike Davis, Aaron Horkey, Skye Rossi, Larry Winship

Photo credit: Burlesque Design of North America

Black Hole

After teeing off from the moon, watch the ball go through the solar system and into the black hole, finally emerging as a different ball.

Walker Art Center staff: Dave Bartley, Phil Docken, Kirk McCall

Bullseye's Bunker

Join Target's mascot, Bullseye the dog, for a romp around this playful final hole.

Target Corporation

Special thanks to the judges who selected the winning designs: Kinji Akagawa, artist; Bob Fine, President, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board; Richard Flood, Chief Curator, Walker Art Center; Julie Snow, architect, Julie Snow Architects; Hilary Lunke,

professional golfer, 2003 U.S. Women's Open Champion; and the Walker Art Center Teen Arts Council.

MINI FACTS ABOUT MINI GOLF BROUGHT TO THE FORE

An American invention originally devised as a substitute sport for golfers from the British Isles, miniature golf has a surprising and storied history in this country. Miniature golf courses have been located in graveyards (using tombstones as hazards), The New Hampshire State Prison, The Lincoln State Hospital for the Insane, oceanliners, New York penthouse rooftops, empty corner lots, greenhouses, and churches. The Palladium and Artists Space in New York have hosted miniature golf courses, and during the era of the do-it-yourself bomb shelter, there was also the do-it-yourself miniature golf course offered in *Popular Mechanics* magazine.

Miniature golf was one of the first sports to be played at night. Reflecting its aristocratic heritage, formal wear was worn. And since mini golf was one of the few games women were allowed to play unchaperoned, various accompaniments to mini golf courses were added such as French lessons, English tearooms, bridge tables, and ballroom dancing. Putt-Putt® shares the hall of fame with McDonald's and Holiday Inn as one of the nation's first roadside businesses.

A few curious facts unearthed from John Margolies' *Miniature Golf (Recollectibles)* about the sport known variously as Putt-Putt®, Goony Golf, Pint-Pot Golf, Tom Thumb Golf, Sawed-off Golf, Half-Pint Golf, Lilliput Links, Rinkiedink Golf, Peewee Golf, and—most appropriate to Walker in the Rough—Garden Golf:

- One 1930s course in Los Angeles featured a live bear cub as an obstacle; course owners trained it to go after balls by dipping them in honey.
- In the early days of the sport, women often had to be chaperoned on the links (and dressed to the nines). In 1930, the *Los Angeles Times* postulated that “putting seems to come natural to most women” due to their “hereditary gift of wielding a broom day in and day out.”
- At mini golf's peak of popularity in the late 1920s, box office receipts at the movies declined 25 percent, and Hollywood executives responded by ordering their actors to stay off the links. Some did, but silent-film star Mary Pickford built her own course inspired by surrealist artist Max Ernst.
- Humorist Will Rogers, like many other Americans in the early 1930s, saw mini golf as a scourge, contributing to unemployment and other social ills: “There is millions got a ‘putter’ in their hand when they ought to have a shovel. Half of America is bent over. In two more generations our children will grow upwards as far as the hips, then they will turn off at right angles, and with their arms hanging down we will be right back where we started from. Darwin was right.”

Walker without Walls is made possible by generous support from Target.

Walker information/box office: 612.375.7622.

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The Walker Art Center is located at 725 Vineland Place,
at Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis, one block off Highway I-94.
For public information, call 612.375.7622.
<http://www.walkerart.org>