



# Remembering >>

Epilogue | Janos Enyedi

# Sculptor celebrated the rust belt

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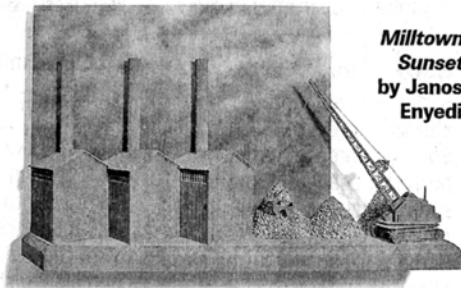
ST. PETERSBURG

Janos Enyedi's home is a planned experience, one that integrates industry and art. Photographs of cranes and cables, warehouse interiors and semi-abandoned mills look like paintings. Paper sculptures look for all the world like solid iron, right down to tiny metal filings with which he created rust. A railway car sits idle on a 4-inch track. Smokestacks tinge the sunset.

The sculptor known for his meticulous recreations of the American rust belt moved to St. Petersburg six months ago, becoming part of a growing arts enclave in the Dome Industrial District. Appropriately, the building that houses his home and studio was once a candy factory.

Mr. Enyedi, a nationally known sculptor who found art in soot and grime, steel mills and rail yards, died Oct. 6, following a heart attack. He was 63.

"What impressed me most about Janos is that he brought dignity to decay," said Clearwater artist Roy Slade, 78, who was a dean of the Corcoran College of Art + Design when Mr. Enyedi was a stu-



**Milltown  
Sunset  
by Janos  
Enyedi**

dent. "He had this ability to look at these decaying plants and steel mills and give them an incredible presence."

He was a boy when the vision first grabbed him. During a family car trip through Gary, Ind., at dusk, Mr. Enyedi would later recall, he found himself "fascinated and hypnotized" by a steel mill in full throttle.

Jonathan Enyedi was born in Blue Island, Ill., a hub of commercial rail traffic bordering Chicago's south side. He never lost sight of his Hungarian roots, or the fact that a grandfather died of

black lung disease. He studied art at Southern Illinois University and graduated from the Corcoran school in Washington, D.C. Along the way he served four years in the Navy, which put him to work as an illustrator.

He met future wife Diana Miller at a party in 1973. She was intrigued by his walrus moustache, and the way he made her laugh with funny voices and accents. "We were the two straightest people there," she said.

Around the same time he changed his first name to Janos, and quickly became known as a rising talent. His work was well-reviewed by the *Washington Post* and other major newspapers, sold at high prices to collectors and shown in museums in the United States and Europe.

He had an infectious enthusiasm and could talk nonstop, especially after a couple of drinks. But people wanted to listen — and to see more of his work. He gained access to bridge platforms, coal yards, working ships along rivers and the factories of Chernobyl.

"If you got on the Janos train, you couldn't get off," said Diana, 65.

The economy drove Mr. Enyedi south after 24

## BIOGRAPHY

### Jonathan George "Janos" Enyedi

**Born:** Dec. 16, 1947

**Died:** Oct. 6, 2011

**Survivors:** wife Diana; brother Carlton Enyedi; sister Roberta Ludtke.

**Celebration of life:** 2 to 6 p.m. Oct. 23; 2245 Fourth Ave. S, St. Petersburg.



years in Mason Neck, Va. He had co-founded a legal assistance resource for artists in Washington, D.C., and intended to start a similar group in St. Petersburg.

Mr. Enyedi collapsed Sept. 25 while completing a crossword puzzle. He died 11 days later at Bayfront Medical Center.

He had planned to invite the mayor and City Council over to his studio, named Furnace Road Studio South after his previous home. "He was excited," said Shrimatee Ojah-Maharaj, manager of the city's Business Assistance Center. "He was very, very happy at the place he was in life."

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