

Site Series

Group Statement

July 2022



The *Site* series brings together curatorial practices and infrastructures that work from and with precarity, foregrounding emerging practices that combine collectivity. Cultural producers from independent art spaces and communities in Kansas City and the Midwest region, who find themselves at a critical junction as resources and infrastructures become less available, are invited to take part in public outdoor or indoor art exhibitions and debate about the possibilities for the future.

The current reality calls for active reflection on the connection between an organization or collective's location and its ability to amplify the voices of contemporary artists. At the same time, issues of local responsibility for emotional, social, and material structures must be considered by curators, artists, and organizers alike. Members of the public are invited to attend the *Site* series and think together about how support and a sense of community can become part of our curatorial and artistic practices.

Site One was the first of the series to occur on November 21, 2021. The inaugural event took place at The Slabs in Gillham Park, and participating galleries, which included Beco Gallery, Curiouser & Curiouser, The Ekru Project, plug, Sapien Gallery, and Troost Gardens were invited to bring together a group of artists whose work created an immersive experience within the multi-level concrete platform space. It was a family-friendly event in a central location that brought together groups of people who had never met or had not seen each other since the onset of the pandemic. *Site Two*, which took place at Loose Park on April 24, 2022, brought the addition of Kiosk Gallery and Nightjar Gallery Space. On a beautiful spring day, pedestrians and park-goers caught a glimpse of what is happening in artist studios around the city. Through these two events, participating artist-run spaces combined resources and mailing lists to share and expand audiences, in hopes of cultivating and pollinating the creative life that persists in the city.

At H&R Block Artspace in summer 2022, *Site Three* will consider questions such as how can artists bring "the site" into the gallery space? How are they affected by, responding to, and building from investigations of place? The participating galleries share an ethos of

responsiveness and in this new context, they work collaboratively to envision possibilities for growth and supportive peer networks. The role of artist-run galleries as nodes for a community that is continually in flux is reflected in the artist as a responsive connecting point for ideas, identities, and environs.

Site Three participating galleries include: Beco Gallery, the Ekru Project, Kiosk, plug, Sapien Gallery, and Troost Gardens. This collective will be joined by guest curator Kimi Kitada of Charlotte Street Foundation and the visual identity of the exhibition will be designed by Adam Swift Lucas and Rachel Kaufman.