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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Site Three
opens at the H&R Block Artspace
July 24 – September 10, 2022



Kansas City, Mo. (July 11, 2022)

The H&R Block Artspace at the Kansas City Art Institute (KCAI) is pleased to present *Site Three*, a collaborative project that celebrates the dynamic Kansas City art ecosystem and presents new work by 15 artists from Missouri, Kansas, Florida, Louisiana, Virginia, and Washington. An opening event is planned for Sunday, July 24, 12:00-3:00 pm.

Site Three is organized in partnership with six Kansas City-based artist-run exhibition spaces, a guest curator, and a graphic design team. Participating venues each present works by artists they have invited into the project and include Beco Gallery, The Ekru Project, Kiosk Gallery, plug, Sapien Gallery, and Troost Gardens.

Participating artists include Nedra Bonds, Elaine Buss, Celina Curry, Austin Dearth, Kevin Demery, Myles Dunigan, Lizzie Green, Leon Jones, Sean Nash, Andy Ozier, Jada Patterson, Cydney Ross, Sadaf Sadri, Kira Sullivan, and Carlie Trosclair.

Conceived collectively and launched in 2021 as a quarterly project, the *Site* series has invited artists to activate public spaces in the city's urban core while forming an active consortium of independent, artist-run spaces. *Site One* was hosted in November 2021 at the former Robert H. Gillham Fountain and Wading Pool known as the "The Slabs" in Gillham Park, while *Site Two* was presented pond-side at Loose Park in April 2022, both in midtown Kansas City. Additional participating independent and artist-run galleries have included Curiouser & Curiouser and Nightjar Gallery Space.

Site Three offers the Artspace an opportunity to welcome this nomadic art event indoors for the first time while spotlighting Kansas City's dynamic art community and amplifying the vital contributions of independent, artist-run spaces and the incredible impact they have on the community's creative ecosystem.

Site Three is organized for the Artspace by Kimi Kitada, an independent curator based in Kansas City, Missouri. The exhibition's visual identity has been designed by Adam Swift Lucas, Assistant Professor in Graphic Design at KCAI, in collaboration with Rachel Kauffman, a graphic design intern at the Artspace.

A Statement from the Site Team collaborators:

The Site series brings together curatorial practices and infrastructures that work from and with precarity, foregrounding emerging practices that combine collectivity. Representatives from independent art spaces and communities in Kansas City and the Midwest region, who find themselves at a critical and precarious junction as resources and infrastructures become less available, are invited to take part in a public outdoor and 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 need to be taken into account 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.

The Artspace is open and free to all. To protect the well-being of visitors, masks and social distancing are recommended. Public hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 12:00-5:00 p.m.

To learn more about public programs, exhibiting artists, our exhibition venue, current visitor guidelines for COVID-19, and to get directions, please visit the [H&R Block Artspace](#) website or email artspace@kcai.edu.

About the Exhibition Partners

Beco Gallery

Beco Gallery is an artist-run space. It has been showcasing experimental, diverse, emerging artists since 2000. We particularly emphasize local Kansas City artists. We're located in the heart of the crossroads, one block from the streetcar. The heart of our gallery is to be an inclusive inviting space. We give our artists 100% artistic freedom to do whatever they want in the gallery. We value experimentation and authenticity in our artists. We seek art that provokes meaningful conversation and introspection. Beco Gallery is located at 1922 Baltimore Ave., Kansas City, MO. www.instagram.com/becogallery

The Ekru Project

The Ekru Project is an artist-run gallery focused on emerging and underrepresented artists and provides artists who may not have gallery representation with a venue to showcase their work, while also giving artists in the community an opportunity to expand their networks on a worldwide level. The Ekru Project opened during the pandemic and since then, they've developed a program heavily focused on dynamic, diverse exhibitions, filled with a variety of artists and disciplines. Co-founded by Kevin Umaña and Emily Reinhardt, The Ekru Project is located at 517 E. 18th Street, Kansas City, MO.

www.theekruproject.com

Kiosk Gallery

Kiosk is an artist-run exhibition space. Our mission is to provide a platform for emerging artists to share their work and create space for the formation of community. Since our launch in 2012, we've put on over 60 shows, including over 250 artists. Co-founded by Eric and Erin Dodson, Kiosk Gallery is located at 1600 Genessee, Ste 133, Kansas City, MO.

www.kioskgallerykc.com

plug

PLUG, formerly known as Plug Projects, is a curatorial collaboration by five Kansas City artists: CJ Charbonneau, Craig Deppen Auge, Mary Clara Hutchison, and Sam Haan, and Cesar Lopez who share the mission of bringing fresh perspectives and conversation to the local cultural community. Our goal is to engage artists and the public at large by exhibiting challenging new work, initiating critical dialogue, and expanding connections of artists in Kansas City as part of a wider, national network of artists. Plug is located at 1328 Agnes Ave. Kansas City, MO.

www.plug.gallery

Sapien Gallery

Sapien Gallery is an artist-run space located in North Kansas City, Missouri, specializing in concept driven exhibitions. Our goal is to curate nuanced group shows that connect local, national, and international artists who share aesthetic and topical interests. As an artist-run space, we rely on the opportunity to expand the creative network of our community. Co-curated by R.J. Junger, Miriamne Marlowe, and Jakob Graves, Sapien Gallery is located at 1331 Erie St., Kansas City, MO.

www.instagram.com/sapien.gallery

Troost Gardens

Troost Gardens is an artist-run gallery, founded in 2021 by Sally Paul and Billy Fowks after they relocated to Kansas City from NYC. Located at 7323 Troost, Kansas City, Missouri, the gallery focuses on presenting thematic group exhibitions of contemporary art. With a background in museum education and technology, Paul and Fowks bring a unique perspective to the vibrant gallery scene in KC.

www.troostgardens.com

Kimi Kitada

Kimi Kitada is the Jedel Family Foundation Curatorial Fellow at Charlotte Street Foundation. Previously she served as Curatorial Assistant at The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles in 2019-20, and Public Programs & Research Coordinator at Independent Curators International (ICI) in New York from 2014-2018. She is also co-founder of alt_break, which provides free and

accessible contemporary art programming through partnerships with local, community-based nonprofits in New York. Kitada received a BA in Art History and Classics from Bucknell University and an MA in Museum Studies from NYU.

Adam Swift Lucas

Adam Swift Lucas is a graphic designer, publisher, and educator based in Kansas City, MO. He runs Specific Ideas, a graphic design studio and small, independent publishing house, and he serves as Assistant Professor of Graphic Design at the Kansas City Art Institute. Previously, Adam was a Senior Designer at SYPartners; a co-founder with Andrew LeClair of LeClair Lucas; and an art director at Wieden+Kennedy. For the creation of Site Three's visual identity, Lucas interprets the project as an ecosystem - a diverse but cohesive community of artists, galleries, curators, and visitors. Lucas has also invited Artspace Graphic Design Intern and KCAI student Rachel Kaufman to respond to this concept with the development of a visual language of illustrations representing each exhibition venue that she created based on native plants found at the Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center in midtown Kansas City.

About the H&R Block Artspace

Dedicated to artists, art and ideas since 1999, the H&R Block Artspace at the Kansas City Art Institute presents innovative exhibitions, public programs and commissioned projects to engage and inspire the next generation of artists, designers and culture workers.

About the Kansas City Art Institute

Founded in 1885, the Kansas City Art Institute is one of the oldest and most respected art and design colleges in the United States. Located at 4415 Warwick in Kansas City, Mo., KCAI is a premier private, fully accredited four-year college of art and design awarding the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 13 majors. The mission of KCAI is to prepare students to transform the world creatively through art and design.

H&R Block Artspace at Kansas City Art Institute

16 East 43rd Street

Kansas City, Missouri 64111

Hours: Wednesday-Saturday, 12:00-5:00 p.m.

www.kcai.edu/artspace

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