



March 26, 2010
For immediate release
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Urban Culture Project and Grand Arts partner to present
60 wrd/min art critic

ART CRITIC LORI WAXMAN TO PERFORM APRIL 15-17 AT URBAN CULTURE PROJECT SPACE, 21 E. 12th STREET IN DOWNTOWN KANSAS CITY, MO. BRIEF, SERIOUS REVIEWS GUARANTEED TO ALL ARTISTS ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

Thursday, April 15, 12-2:30pm & 4-6:30pm

Friday, April 16, 2:30-5pm & 6:30-9pm

Saturday, April 17, 12-2:30pm & 4-6:30pm

The short art review is at once a challenge, an insult, a record, and a piece of advertising. Its purpose is debatable and arguably quite different for the various parties involved: the writer gets a tear sheet, a couple of bucks, and some editorial gratification; the reader, in the best case scenario, gets a succinct, opinionated description of a body of work they probably did not see in person; and the artist gets published recognition and an entry for their bibliography. But think, for a moment, of the artist who has been reviewed carelessly, who has never been reviewed, who lives in a city where there is little local criticism. What then?

For three days at Urban Culture Project Space, 21 East 12th Street in downtown Kansas City, MO, Chicago-based art critic Lori Waxman will receive artists in need of reviews under the auspices of her project, the "60 wrd/min art critic." Reviews, which are free of charge, will be scheduled and written in twenty-five minute increments between the announced hours only: Thursday, April 15, 12-2:30pm & 4-6:30pm; Friday, April 16, 2:30-5pm & 6:30-9pm; and Saturday, April 17, 12-2:30pm & 4-6:30pm.

Reviews will be signed, published and ready for pick-up within the time frame of the performance. Artist, artwork, critic, and review will all exist in the same space simultaneously, thereby helping to demystify the art review process. The reviews will remain on view at Urban Culture Project Space through May 6. In addition, the reviews will be published by the *Kansas City Star* (in print and online at KansasCity.com) in the weeks following the performance.

Advance appointments can be made on a first-come, first-served basis as of April 6, 2010 by emailing critic@60wradmin.org, at which point additional details will be provided. Walk-in hours will be held Saturday, April 17, 12-2:30pm.

The 60 wrd/min art critic is many things: an exploration of short-form art writing, a work of performance art in and of itself, an experiment in role reversal between artist and critic, a democratic gesture and a circumvention of the art review process. At a time when newspaper and magazine art columns are disappearing, the “60 wrd/min art critic” aims to get a community talking about its own art.

Kansas City is among ten U.S. cities purposefully included in the list of destinations for the “60 wrd/min art critic.” Waxman has focused her project on vibrant regional arts communities, from Austin, TX to Portland, OR, from Durham, NC to Columbus, OH, whose artists rarely have opportunities to receive nationally published art reviews.

Lori Waxman is a Chicago-based critic and art historian. She publishes regularly in the Chicago Tribune and Artforum, and has written catalogue essays for small and large art spaces, including Spertus Museum in Chicago; Spaces Gallery in Cleveland; INOVA in Milwaukee; and Dieu Donn  Papermill in New York. She teaches art history at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

The *60 wrd/min art critic* is a project of the Creative Capital | Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant Program.

This project is being presented within the context of "The Training Room" at Urban Culture Project Space. Organized in conjunction with the exhibition "You're Such A Good Sport," on view through May 6 at UCP's adjacent Paragraph Gallery, The Training Room is providing a site for short-term projects that creatively exemplify ideas of training, practice, game-playing, and/or sport.

Urban Culture Project is an initiative of the Charlotte Street Foundation, an organization dedicated to making Kansas City a place where artists and art thrive. Urban Culture Project creates new opportunities for artists of all disciplines and contributes to urban revitalization by transforming spaces in downtown Kansas City into new venues for multi-disciplinary contemporary arts programming. For more information, visit www.charlottestreet.org.

Grand Arts is a non-profit art project space in downtown Kansas City that commissions and assist artists in the production and realization of ambitious contemporary art projects. Functioning as a laboratory, its mission is to provide financial, technical and logistical support to artists while encouraging conceptual risk-taking and experimentation at all stages of the creative process. For more information, visit www.grandarts.com.