



## ART through ARCHITECTURE

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### Missouri Bank's Crossroads Branch to unveil second set of "Artboards" in February

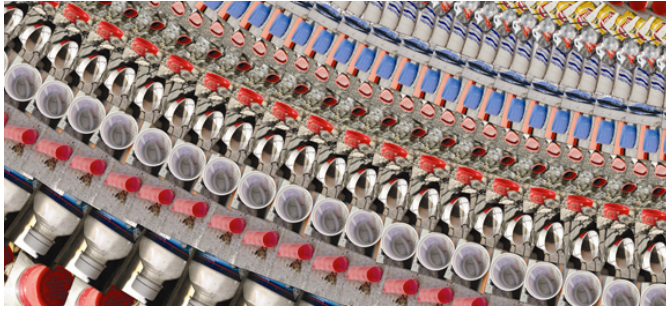
*Converted billboards, an Art through Architecture (AtA) "Art Achievement" project, to feature commissioned images by Kansas City artists Archie Scott Gobber & Miki Baird*

The Missouri Bank Crossroads Branch, 125 Southwest Boulevard, is slated to debut four new commissioned images on its "Artboards," by Kansas City based artists Archie Scott Gobber and Miki Baird, in time for First Friday February 6, 2009.

**Archie Scott Gobber's** two images, to be displayed side-by-side facing east, are adapted from a recent painting by the artist titled "Changeable," which references, and literally illustrates, the buzzword that so pervaded the 2008 presidential election and that represents a sense of optimism for the future. Gobber, who regularly uses text in his work in manners both playful and pointed, here not only alludes to this specific historical moment in American history, but also capitalizes on the nature of the billboard itself as something temporary, to be replaced in the near future with a different message.

"I enjoyed the process of adapting this painting to the billboard format," says Gobber. "The word 'change' is powerful, but the word 'able' becomes significantly more important in this version. Originally this piece was intended to read 'Available,' but as time went on and the election neared, I altered it to the current version. Thus, it was truly 'changed,' and the final work captures this idea of "change" as unfinished and in progress."

**Miki Baird's** set of west-facing side images, titled "Urban Deposit," draw upon her interest in pedestrian waste---"litter, trash and 'stuff'---the kind of things we all leave behind." For this piece, Baird walked around the Crossroads area photographing plastic bottles, cups, paper goods, and discarded wrappers, in situ and close-up, then combined dozens of these small



images to create a larger pattern. For Baird, "the tidbits I find are pieces of a story---they are clue-makers that form a narrative or visual portrait specific to an area." She was also inspired by ideas of recycling and re-use embodied by Missouri Bank's building and the billboards themselves. "I chose to photograph

throwaways that in some form could be reused by us or recycled through industry...the images touch on our overuse of disposables while also signaling the creative innovation emerging from reusable industries that produce viable products and materials from recycled goods."

The innovative "Artboards" project began last fall, when the building's existing double-sided billboards were renovated and converted into a highly visible site for work by area artists as part of Missouri Bank's purchase and renovation of the building to house its Crossroads Branch. Every four months, the boards will display a set of newly commissioned artworks, produced as digital prints on ECO-flex, a new, "green" billboard material. The Artboards debuted October 2008 with works by Kansas City artists Warren Rosser and Jaimie Warren

Designed by Helix Architecture + Design, Missouri Bank's Crossroads Branch was the first Kansas City area building project to gain "Art Achievement" through Art through Architecture (AtA), a partnership of American Institute of Architects-Kansas City and Charlotte Street Foundation designed to encourage collecting and commissioning work by Kansas City area artists through architectural practice. Through AtA, new architectural projects may earn Gold, Silver or Bronze levels of Art Achievement by dedicating a percentage of the total construction budget to collecting artworks, commissioning temporary or permanent artworks, and/or including artists on design teams. The Missouri Bank Crossroads project, which also includes commissioned sculpture by artist Jesse Small, earned Gold-level Art Achievement from Art through Architecture.

#### **About the Artists:**

**Archie Scott Gobber** received his B.F.A. from the Kansas City Art Institute. His work has shown locally and nationally, including solo exhibitions at Gallery 210 in St. Louis, Marty Walker Gallery in Dallas (a critic's pick in *ArtForum*), Review Studio Exhibition Space, Kansas City, and Dolphin Gallery, Kansas City. He received a Charlotte Street Award in 1998, and completed a Project Wall commission for the H&R Block Artspace in 2004. Since 2005, Gobber has been an artist in residence at Review Studios. Gobber is represented by Dolphin Gallery in Kansas City.

**Miki Baird** earned both her M.F.A. and B.F.A. from the University of Kansas. Her numerous solo exhibitions include those held at Chicago's ARC Gallery, the Urban Culture Project's Paragraph and Jenkins Windows galleries, the Leedy-Voulkos Art Center, and



Beth Allison Gallery. In addition, she has participated in group showings at H&R Block Artspace, Sherry Leedy Contemporary Art, Wichita Art Museum, and the Salina Art Center. Her photographs are currently on view in St. Louis Art Museum's Flat Files. Aside from exhibiting her work, Baird has also taught at Vermont College and the Kansas City Art Institute.

Future artists for the Artboards will be selected by Missouri Bank representatives from Art through Architecture's artist database, soon to be accessible on-line at [www.ArtArch.org](http://www.ArtArch.org). For more information about the Art through Architecture program, contact Josh Shelton, Chair of AtA's Steering Committee, at 816.474.3838 or [jshelton@eldoradoarchitects.com](mailto:jshelton@eldoradoarchitects.com). For more information about the artists and artwork, contact Kate Hackman, Administrator, Art through Architecture Art Committee/Associate Director, Charlotte Street Foundation, at 816.994.7731 or [kate@charlottestreet.org](mailto:kate@charlottestreet.org).