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NEW MISSOURI BANK CROSSROADS “ARTBOARDS” TO DEBUT FIRST FRIDAY IN JUNE

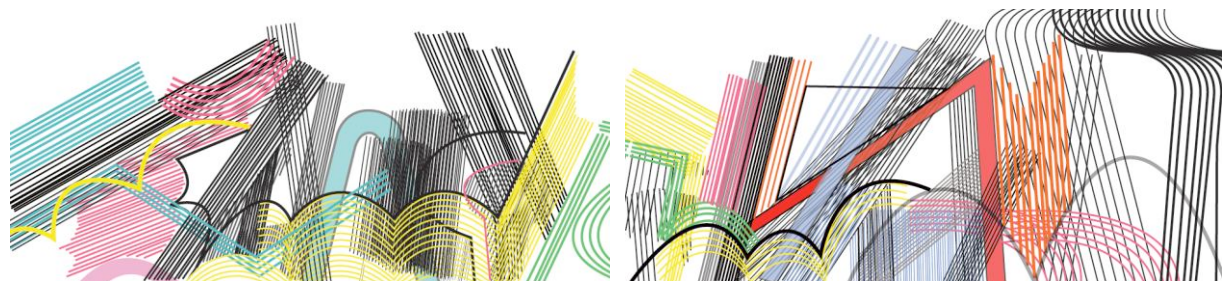
*Commissioned Images by Kansas City artists Elijah Gowin and Emily Sall
On view this summer as latest installment of Mo Bank’s Art through Architecture project*



The Missouri Bank Crossroads Branch, 125 Southwest Boulevard, is slated to debut four new large-scale commissioned images, by Kansas City based artists Elijah Gowin and Emily Sall, on its “Artboards” in time for First Friday June 5, 2009. An Art through Architecture “Art Achievement project, the Missouri Bank “Artboards” launched 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 the bank’s purchase and renovation of the building to house its Crossroads Branch.

Elijah Gowin will present two west-facing images from his *Of Falling & Floating* series, which combine aspects of traditional photography with digital imaging technology. Each image features a single figure set against a backdrop of blue sky punctuated by wispy clouds. These ambiguous images—are the figures dropping from the sky? being lifted upward from the earth?—invite a range of associations and will offer the public an opportunity to invent their own narratives. Gowin’s images might be seen as poignant meditations on personal and societal anxiety during a time of global change and crisis, as evocations of existential uncertainty, or as portraits of escape or release.

Inspired by the urban environment in which the work will be displayed, **Emily Sall** describes her two east-facing images, titled “Betwixt and Between,” as “graffiti like blueprints of ever changing



cityscapes." These high-energy, abstract works possess a strong linear quality, evoke a sense of movement, and reverberate in concert and across the gap separating the two as displayed. Inspired by previous drawings but created new for this project, Sall's images also offer a play on the idea of billboard advertising in terms of their bold colors, flattened imagery, and the digital manner in which they were created.

About the Artists:

Elijah Gowin is an Associate Professor in the Department of Art and Art History at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. His photographs have been exhibited internationally and are in the collection of the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, among others. Gowin is represented by the Robert Mann Gallery, New York and Dolphin Gallery, Kansas City. He is a 2008 recipient of the Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, awarded to finish his photographic series "Of Falling and Floating," and of a Charlotte Street Award in 2006.

Emily Sall is a 2005 graduate of the Kansas City Art Institute. Her work has been featured in exhibitions at venues including the Leedy Voulkos Art Center, Jan Weiner Gallery, Monarch Gallery, Grand Arts, Dolphin gallery, and the H&R Block Artspace, and in publications including *The Kansas City Star*, *The Pitch*, and *Review Magazine*. Last year, her work travelled to fakespace in Los Angeles. Sall was a 2005 Urban Culture Project Studio Resident, and received a Charlotte Street Award in 2007.

About the "Artboards":

The Missouri Bank "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, followed in February 2009 with works by Archie Scott Gobber and Miki Baird.

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.

Future artists for the Artboards will be selected by Missouri Bank representatives from Art through Architecture's artist database, accessible on-line at 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. 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.