



ART through ARCHITECTURE

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**NEW MISSOURI BANK CROSSROADS "ARTBOARDS"
TO DEBUT FIRST FRIDAY IN APRIL**

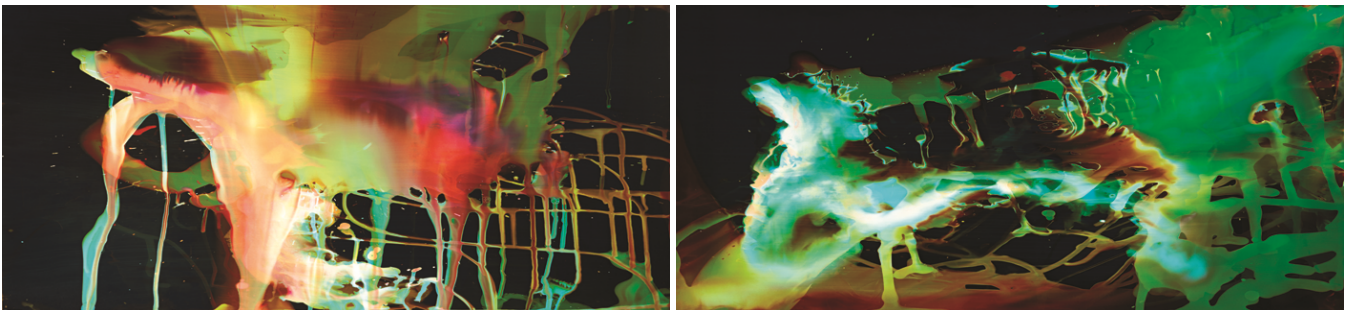
*Billboard-scale commissioned images by KC area artists DEANNA DIKEMAN and MARY WESSEL
on view this spring as latest installment of MO Bank's Art Through Architecture Project*



The Missouri Bank Crossroads Branch, 125 Southwest Boulevard, will debut four new large-scale commissioned images, by Kansas City based artists Deanna Dikeman and Mary Wessel on its "Artboards" in time for First Friday April, 2011.

An Art through Architecture "Art Achievement" project, the Missouri Bank "Artboards" launched fall 2008, 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, completed by Helix Architecture + Design. Art through Architecture, a partnership of Charlotte Street Foundation and American Institute of Architects-Kansas City, administers the programming of the Artboards in collaboration with a panel of Missouri Bank representatives.

On the west-facing billboards, photographer **Deanna Dikeman** presents two new images from her *Ballroom* series. Growing out of previous work capturing colorful swaths of thrift store and vintage clothing, Dikeman's most recent photographs feature professional and amateur dancers that she photographs at ballroom dance competitions. Herself an amateur competitive ballroom dancer, Dikeman is particularly inspired by the dresses, "rich with rhinestones and vibrant colors... By showing the clothing in motion, I can capture the energy of the dancers and the music that moves them, as well as the visual feast of color and sparkle," she says. The works on



view exemplify her increasing interest “in the presence of the dancers’ bodies, showing their own gestures and how they touch their dance partner.” The two images for the Artboards specifically frame the expressive hands and torsos of two pairs of dancers.

On the east-facing billboards, **Mary Wessel** presents two images derived from her *Worldscapes* series of unique color photograms. These images are created directly on photographic paper in the darkroom, without the use of a camera, using an ever-changing series of darkroom processes, chemical solutions, and household items. Through Wessel’s process, elements of spontaneity and chance are used to explore themes of time, transformation, and materiality. As each image evinces a sense of turbulent forces in the process of gathering or morphing, and with associations ranging from the cellular to the cosmic, Wessel’s Artboards invite a wide range of interpretations, both specific and abstract.

About the Artists:

Mary Wessel received her B.A. from Douglass College, Rutgers University and her M.F.A. from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Wessel’s work has been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions throughout the United States. Her work has been supported with numerous awards and honors, including the Charlotte Street Foundation Visual Artist Award, an Avenue of the Arts public art commission, and an ArtsKC Inspiration Grant. She has taught at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, the Kansas City Art Institute, and is currently an adjunct Professor of Photography at Johnson County Community College.

Deanna Dikeman received her B.S. and M.S. from Purdue University. Awards include the United States Booth Fellowship, Charlotte Street Foundation Fellowship, and the Aaron Siskind Foundation Individual Photographer’s Fellowship. Dikeman’s work has been exhibited in one-person and group exhibitions nationally. Her work is included in the collections of The Museum of Contemporary Photography; Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art; and the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art as well as many corporate and academic collections. Dikeman is represented by Dolphin Gallery, Kansas City, and has taught at the University of Missouri and Louisiana State University.

About the “Artboards”:

The Missouri Bank "Artboards" project began in fall 2008, 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. Thus far, the Artboards have featured works by Kansas City artists Warren Rosser, Jaimie Warren, Archie Scott Gobber, Miki Baird, Elijah Gowin, Emily Sall, Grant Miller, May Tveit, Allan Winkler, Mike Sinclair, Anne Lindberg, Paul Shortt, Adolfo Martinez, and Jerry Kunkel.

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 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 online at www.ArtArch.org. For more information about the Art through Architecture program, contact Kate Hackman, Administrator, Art through Architecture Art Committee/Associate Director, Charlotte Street Foundation, at 816.994.7731 or kate@charlottestreet.org.