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**New Missouri Bank Crossroads Art Through Architecture “Artboards” by
 RIE EGAWA and CALEB TAYLOR
 to debut in time for First Friday, March 7, 2014**



Artboard images by Rie Egawa, “This is Art.”

The Missouri Bank Crossroads Branch, 125 Southwest Boulevard, KCMO, will debut four new large-scale commissioned images by Kansas City artists Rie Egawa and Caleb Taylor on its “Artboards” in time for First Friday March 7, 2014. Installed on the exterior, double-sided billboards rising above the bank, the Artboards are visible to the public all hours of the day, and will remain on view through the end of May 2014.

On the west-facing Artboards, Rie Egawa presents “This is Art,” a title and a literal translation of the work’s Japanese words. In the artist’s words, “Billboards are an “in-your-face” communication method, often for propaganda or advertisement, targeting pedestrians or drivers. I couldn’t help but add a simple statement, but with an unexpected twist.” Egawa hopes that those able to read the Japanese words will find the piece “surprisingly amusing, and those who cannot will want to decipher it. Or it may look like Egyptian hieroglyphics or just an abstract picture. That is okay too, because it is just an art.”

Caleb Taylor created the east-facing Artboards to “contribute to an ongoing investigation of the act of extraction for perceptual effect.” His work features an intricate photographic layering technique, wherein the artist “documented architectonic paper structures in arrangements that respond to my observations of constructed spaces and rhythms within urban grid layouts. As a result of cutting into and layering passages from multiple photographs, windows of fractured geometry emerge that alter our spatial awareness and establish a presence in the void.”



Artboard images by Caleb Taylor, “Presence of Absence I and II.”

ABOUT THE ARTISTS:

Caleb Taylor is a 2010 Charlotte Street Foundation Fellow whose practice freely navigates the disciplines of painting, drawing, collage, and sculpture. He is the recipient of the prestigious Joan Mitchell Foundation MFA Grant, and has completed residencies at Vermont Studio Center, Charlotte Street's Urban Culture Project, and Ucross Foundation. His paintings and drawings are published in *New American Painting* and have been exhibited at numerous venues including the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Grand Arts (KC), CUE Art Foundation (NY), and dm contemporary (NY). Taylor's work is collected nationally and is included in the collections of the Nerman MoCA, Polsinelli Law Firm, and 360 Architecture. He received his MFA in painting from Montana State University-Bozeman (2008) and his BFA from Northwest Missouri State University (2004). Taylor is represented by Sherry Leedy Contemporary Art in Kansas City and dm contemporary in New York.

In addition to his studio practice, Taylor is a founding member of PLUG Projects, a curatorial collaboration in the Stockyards District of Kansas City. PLUG exhibits national artists and is a recipient of a 2011 Rocket Grant from the Andy Warhol Foundation, Spencer Museum of Art, and Charlotte Street Foundation. For more information, visit <http://www.calebtaylorart.com/>.

Born in Kobe, Japan, **Rie Egawa** is a Kansas City-based artist and co-owner, with her partner Burgess Zbryk, of the Crossroads-based art and design studio, egawa + zbryk. She is the recipient of a Charlotte Street/Spencer Museum Rocket Grant for her site-specific project, "Those Things That Protrude" (2012), a Charlotte Street Visual Artist Award (2004), a Kansas City Municipal Art Commission 1% for Art commission, for "Barnacles" in the Power and Light District, and has exhibited at venues including Kansas City Jewish Museum of Contemporary Art, Paragraph Gallery, H&R Block Artspace, and Supreme Trading, Brooklyn. For more information, visit www.egawazbryk.blogspot.com.

ABOUT THE "ARTBOARDS"

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.

To date, the Artboards have featured commissioned works by Kansas City artists Heinrich Toh, Misha Kligman, 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, Jerry Kunkel, Deanna Dikeman, Mary Wessel, Barry Anderson, Luke Firle, Jon Scott Anderson, and Derrick Briedenthal, Cory Imig, Erika Lynn Hanson, Gavin Snider, Sabrina Staires, Stephen Proski, Rachelle Gardner, Calder Kamin, Joe Bussell, Judith G. Levy, Robert Howsare, Ricky Allman, and Jarrett Mellenbruch. Artists for the Artboards are selected by Missouri Bank from an annual call for proposals administered by Charlotte Street Foundation.

Art through Architecture (AtA), a collaborative program of Charlotte Street Foundation and the American Institute of Architects-Kansas City, is 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.

ABOUT CHARLOTTE STREET

For 17 years, Charlotte Street has challenged, nurtured, and empowered thousands of artists, distributed over \$900,000 in awards and grants to artists and their projects, and connected individual artists to each other and to the greater Kansas City community. Charlotte Street—with its community of artists—strives to be a primary catalyst in making Kansas City a vibrant, creative metropolis, alive with collaboration, passion, ideas, and surprise. For more information about Charlotte Street, its awards, programs, and initiatives, visit www.charlottestreet.org