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For immediate release

KCAI alumni to shine at Carter Art Center, starting Nov. 5

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (Oct. 18, 2010) —Work by 19 alumni of the Kansas City Art Institute will be on view when “In the Moment,” an exhibition celebrating the college’s 125th anniversary, opens with a reception from 6 to 9 p.m. Nov. 5 at the Carter Art Center at MCC-Penn Valley, 3201 Southwest Trafficway. There also will be a closing reception at the Carter Art Center from 6 to 9 p.m. Dec. 3, beginning with a gallery talk at 6 p.m. with participating artists and the exhibition curator.

Heather Lustfeldt, an independent curator, art historian and writer based in Kansas City, curated the exhibition, selecting artists who span generations, media, concept and style. The show includes drawing, digital media, painting, performance, photography, sculpture, site-specific installation and some collaborative work.

“The show will be immersive, eclectic and very current,” Lustfeldt stated. “It will showcase artists who are different conceptually and stylistically and who are, in their various ways, succeeding as artists in a challenging, yet open-ended global economy. ‘In the Moment’ is a celebration of the creative, organic and inspired legacy of KCAI. While not a comprehensive overview of the history of KCAI, this convergence of artists demonstrates a wonderful asymmetry of vision and approach that provides a glimpse into the thinking and practice of many artists today. There will definitely be excitement, fun and a few surprises.”

Artists represented in the exhibition include Audra Brandt (’07 photography/new media); Marcus Cain (’98 painting); Cody Critchelo (’03 printmaking); Leo Esquivel (’95 printmaking); Ari Fish (’06 ceramics); Archie Scott Gobber (’88 painting); Rachel Hayes (’99 fiber); Robert Heishman (’08 photography and art history); Seth Johnson (’01 printmaking); Ke-Sook Lee (’82 painting); Nathan Mabry (’01 ceramics); Megan Mantia (’07 printmaking and art history); Archer Prewitt (’85 printmaking); Eric Von Robertson (’99 sculpture); Eric Sall (’99 painting); Jesse Small (’97 ceramics); Jaimie Warren (’02 printmaking); Susan White (’96 sculpture); and James Woodfill (’80 painting).

The exhibition is co-sponsored by Metropolitan Community College, the Carter Art Center Gallery and the Kansas City Art Institute.

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“We are enormously grateful to MCC, the Carter Art Center Gallery and gallery director Bernadette Torres ('91 ceramics), whom we are proud to claim as an alum, for celebrating our 125th anniversary in this very meaningful way,” said Kathleen Collins, president of KCAI. “And we are grateful also to Heather Lustfeldt for pulling together such a great group of artists whose work is so compelling and thought-provoking.”

The gallery is open from 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call 816-759-4ART (4278) or visit mcckc.edu/pvart.

About the Kansas City Art Institute

Celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2010, the Kansas City Art Institute is a private, independent four-year college of art and design awarding the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with majors in animation, art history, ceramics, digital filmmaking, digital media, fiber, graphic design, illustration, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture and studio art with an emphasis on creative writing. The college also offers certificate programs in Community Arts and Service Learning and in Asian Studies for students enrolled in the B.F.A. program. KCAI hosts “Current Perspectives,” a free public lecture series; free exhibitions at the H&R Block Artspace gallery; and evening, weekend and summer classes in art, design, multimedia studies and desktop publishing for children, youth and adults. Founded in 1885, KCAI is Kansas City’s oldest arts organization. For more information, visit KCAI on the Web at www.kcai.edu.

About the Carter Art Center

The Carter Art Center at MCC-Penn Valley provides quality arts education to students in midtown Kansas City, preparing them to transfer to baccalaureate institutions. It provides employers with workers who are well-prepared for jobs such as graphic designers and digital prepress technicians. It also provides a place for the community to gather to celebrate and enjoy the visual arts. For more information, visit <http://mcckc.edu/pvart>.

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