

BEAUTIFUL/ DECAY

NEW CORNUCOPIA AND THE BIG IOU

August 22nd, 2011 by Amir



Towering over visitors at a height of almost seven stories, *New Cornucopia and The Big IOU* by John Salvest is comprised of 105 multi-colored steel shipping containers, stacked seven high and fifteen across. The containers will be used as mosaic tesserae, with "I O U" spelled out on one side of the massive structure, and "U S A" on the other. Developed over the course of the past year, this striking installation is unfolding in Kansas City's *Grand Arts* at a moment of exceptionally divisive national politics and public discourse.

Says Salvest of *IOU/USA*:

"The placement of the project near a regional branch of the Federal Reserve Bank, one of the main components of national economic policy, comes at a time when concern about the United States' ballooning federal budget and foreign trade deficits is a major part of the national conversation. Its location between the Fed and the Pioneer Mother Memorial is also fitting in that, whereas the permanent public monument rightfully celebrates America's and Kansas City's triumphant past, the temporary public sculpture may generate meaningful discussion about where we, as a nation, are heading."