

## Sticking it to the Fed

BY NATHAN ZOSCHKE (NZOSCHKE@UNEWS.COM), ON AUGUST 29TH, 2011

### New art installation reflects troubled political climate

A new art project set to open this week adds a twist of political irony to Memorial Hill Park downtown.

It couldn't have possibly arrived at a more appropriate time, in light of the recent U.S. credit downgrade by Standard & Poors and public dialogue on U.S. fiscal and monetary policy.

"IOU/USA," by Arkansas State University art professor John Salvest, sits across the street from the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.

The exhibit consists of 117 shipping containers of assorted colors stacked seven-stories high, and groupings of white shipping containers on either side spell out "IOU" and "USA."

The use of shipping containers, a symbol of globalism and international trade, prompt a discussion on outsourcing of American jobs to other countries.

However, the project does not endorse a particular political viewpoint. Rather, it is intended to spawn discussion and public dialogue about deficits, both personal and collective, through the use of commonly recognized symbols.

"The placement of the project near a regional branch of the Federal Reserve Bank, one of the main components of national fiscal and monetary 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," Salvest said in a press release.

The stack of shipping containers can be easily viewed from nearby Liberty Memorial and the Pioneer Mother Memorial, a location Salvest carefully selected because of its historical significance.

"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," Salvest said.

The project was no small endeavor. Cranes were used to install the project, which must be able to withstand 90 mph winds and have 24-hour a day security.

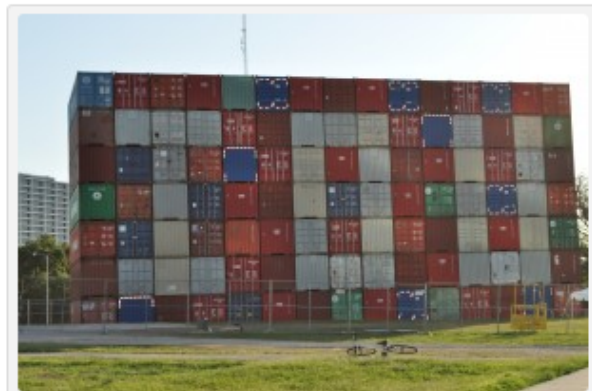
A gallery talk with Salvest will be held 2 p.m. on Saturday at Grand Arts.

"IOU/USA" will run through Oct. 16, and will be open 24 hours.

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