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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



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**GRAND ARTS ANNOUNCES  
GAME AND INSTALLATION  
BY BERLIN-BASED ARTIST  
& SMELL RESEARCHER  
SISSEL TOLAAS**

**OPENING RECEPTION:** Friday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, from 6 to 9pm at Grand Arts,  
Kansas City Kansas Public Library Main Branch and Kaw Point Park.  
Free trolley transportation between all sites from 6 to 9pm  
**REMARKS BY SISSEL AT THE LIBRARY:** 7:30pm

**GALLERY TALK WITH THE ARTIST:** Saturday, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, 1pm at Grand Arts.  
**SMELL WALK & TALK WITH SISSEL TOLAAS AND JOSE FAUS:** Saturday, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, 3pm  
at the Kansas City Museum. Space is limited, please RSVP to [gallery@grandarts.com](mailto:gallery@grandarts.com).

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Grand Arts is pleased to announce *SmellScape KCK/KCMO (2007-2012)*, the latest project by Berlin-based artist and smell researcher Sissel Tolaas. *Smellscape* is a game which invites the public to engage as players investigating the smells of Kansas City. The game begins with a reception on Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, from 6 to 9 pm, and continues through October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012.

In 2007, Grand Arts exhibited Tolaas' project *the FEAR of Smell: the Smell of FEAR*, featuring nine "invisible portraits" of men whose sweat she simulated. For her 2012 return, the Norwegian-born artist has mapped, collected and reproduced the smells of Kansas City, Mo., and Kansas City, Kan. Tolaas has undertaken similar smell-mapping projects in Berlin, Mexico City, Cape Town and elsewhere, but here the installation takes its ultimate form as a game: a smell-based urban treasure hunt. Participants are challenged to explore downtown neighborhoods on foot and nose-first, alert to the power of smell, in a quest to locate and collect scratch-and-sniff postcards infused with location-specific scents.

*SmellScape* players begin at Grand Arts or one of six "Main Posts" – **Kansas City Municipal Court, City Market, Kaw Point Park, Bethany Park, KCKPL's Main Library, or the Kansas City Museum** – where a large neighborhood map will highlight between one and five "Outposts" within walking distance. Players can collect one smell card at each Outpost, noting specific smells they detect, and proceed to subsequent Outposts for more cards. For extra points, players can snap photos along their journeys and add them to the game.

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Points are scored through number of cards collected, smells noted, and photos contributed—the more Main Posts and Outposts a player visits, the more points he or she scores. iPhone users can download the **SmellScape App** (on or after September 7<sup>th</sup>) to “check in” at Outposts and update scores automatically. App users can also access leader boards, upload photos, and tag discoveries on Facebook. Players who are not using an iPhone can take their cards, notes and photos directly to Grand Arts, the game’s hub and home base, to have their scores tallied. All players who collect at least two different smell cards can claim a limited-edition, complete box set of *SmellScape* postcards at Grand Arts before October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012.

Dedicated players who collect more than ten cards enter the Silver Sniffer Circle and have a chance to win a real Golden Nose. Select Outpost locations will also randomly distribute prizes from *SmellScape* partner businesses.

At Grand Arts, players can experiment with smell-mixing in a micro-laboratory and view their fellow game players’ progress on a live map. Grand Arts will also convene a series of public programs in conjunction with the project on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays in October. For more information, please visit [www.grandarts.com](http://www.grandarts.com).

With a background in science and linguistics, Tolaas has spent decades exploring how smell – one of our most powerful and least understood senses – can help us improve tolerance within our cultures and communities. She conducts her social experiments with a sense of discovery and play. “Nothing stinks,” insists Tolaas, “but thinking makes it so!”

Scan this QR code to download the app  
or visit this link on your iPhone [bit.ly/NmpWx7](http://bit.ly/NmpWx7)  
(on or after September 7<sup>th</sup>)



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## **Sissel Tolaas**

Berlin-based “professional in-between” **Sissel Tolaas** was born in Norway and studied mathematics, chemical science, languages and visual art at universities in Oslo, Warsaw, Moscow, St. Petersburg and Oxford. Since 1990 she has focused her work on smell and communication, moving within disciplines of science, art, academia and industry. In 2004, Tolaas established the Smell RE\_searchLab in Berlin with funding from International Flavors and Fragrances (IFF). She has performed smell studies for companies and institutions including BBC London; Sony Computer Science Laboratory, in Paris; Max Planck Institute; Deutsche Bank; Louis Vuitton; Estee Lauder; KPMG; Sony BMG; SHOWstudio; Mercedes Benz; Adidas; the Rockefeller Foundation; Johnson & Johnson; 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing; Liverpool University; Parsons The New School For Design; Harvard University; Stanford University; University of Michigan; Art Center College of Design, in Pasadena; NASA; IEEE; and MIT. Tolaas often participates in international colloquiums and conferences; recently she became a founding member of the International Sleep Science and Technology Association. Her work has won international recognition and prizes, including a 2009 Rouse Visiting Artist appointment at Harvard GSD; a 2010 Honorable Mention in the category of Hybrid Art at Prix Ars Electronica, in Linz, Austria; and a 2010 collaborative residency at Harvard Medical School awarded by Synthetic Aesthetics, a research project jointly run by the University of Edinburgh and Stanford University. Her projects have been featured at the Museum of Modern Art, in New York; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Fondation Cartier, in Paris; Hamburger Bahnhof, in Berlin; Tate Gallery, in Liverpool; the National Art Museum of China, in Beijing; the Venice Biennale; and documenta 13.

## **José Faus**

José Faus is a native of Bogota, Colombia and longtime Kansas City resident. He received degrees in Studio Art/Painting and Creative Writing/Journalism from UMKC. He is a founding member of the Latino Writers Collective and serves on the boards of The Writers Place, Latino Writers Collective and Nuevo Eden. He maintains a studio practice at caridostudio in downtown Kansas City, Kansas. He is a recent recipient of Rocket Grant for the community project VOX NARRO. His writing appears in *Primera Pagina: Poetry From the Latino Heartland*, *Cuentos del Centro: Stories From the Latino Heartland* and will appear in the forthcoming *Working: In the Red and the Black* from Helicon Nine Press and Raritan and I-70 Review. He is a recent winner of Poets & Writers Maureen Egen Writers Exchange award.

## **ABOUT GRAND ARTS**

Grand Arts is a non-profit art project space in downtown Kansas City, Mo., that commissions and assists artists in the production and realization of ambitious contemporary art projects. The gallery is open Thu-Fri 10-5, Sat 11-5 and by appointment.

**THANK YOU TO OUR SMELLSCAPE PARTNERS:** Kansas City Municipal Court, City Market, Kansas City Museum, Kansas City Kansas Public Library Main Branch, The Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City Kansas Parks and Recreation, Friends of Kaw Point, Los Tules Food Truck, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Steamboat Arabia Museum, Chinatown Food Market, Al Habashi Mart, Lou Lou's, Rich's Wash and Dry, Epic Arts Clay Studio, Dalia's Belleza Estetica Familiar, Supermart El Torito II, La Michoacana, and Ed's Trophies and Awards.

**IFF** International Flavors & Fragrances Inc.

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## ABOUT OUR SMELLSCAPE KCK/KCMO PARTNERS:

### *About the Kansas City Municipal Court:*

Authorized by the State Constitution and created by the Charter of Kansas City, Missouri, the 16th Judicial Circuit Court of Missouri – Kansas City Municipal Division (“Municipal Court”) is a court of law that protects the rights of citizens and provides them with a place to obtain a fair and impartial hearing on any citation alleging a violation. The Kansas City Municipal Court is located in the heart of downtown Kansas City, Mo., in a three-story building on the southeast corner of 11th and Locust streets at 1101 Locust Street, between City Hall and the Kansas City, Mo. Police Department headquarters. The Court processes approximately 350,000 cases annually and is the largest municipal court in the state of Missouri.

### *About the City Market:*

Open daily and featuring an eclectic mix of dining, shopping, entertainment and attractions in a unique open-air setting, the City Market offers visitors a variety of fresh produce, meat, specialty groceries, flowers and gift items from nearby farms and around the world. Steeped in over 150 years of tradition, the City Market offers shoppers the region’s largest farmers’ market and the opportunity to purchase the best of the heartland direct from producers, every Saturday and Sunday, year-round. The City Market has an extensive calendar, hosting concerts, festivals and other special events.

### *About the Kansas City Museum:*

Kansas City Museum is housed in Corinthian Hall, the former Robert A. Long residence at 3218 Gladstone Blvd., in historic Northeast Kansas City. The 1910 Beaux-Arts mansion is currently undergoing an extensive renovation, but still open to daily and specialized monthly tours to the public. Also open to the public are the Museum’s Visitor Center and a special exhibit installed on the estate grounds about the Long family and their famous home. Kansas City Museum is operated by Union Station Kansas City, Inc., and funded by a public tax levy, ticketing, grants and private donations. Admission is free during the entire renovation period. On-street parking is available, and visitors are encouraged to follow directional signs and use the North Gate to enter.

### *About Kaw Point Park:*

The Lewis and Clark expedition arrived at Kaw Point, at the confluence of the Kansas and Missouri rivers in Kansas City, Kan., on June 26, 1806. Today, though located in the center of metropolitan Kansas City, Kaw Point retains its natural state, with wooded trails, wildflowers, and wildlife. The park surrounding Kaw Point also has access to highways, the Lewis and Clark Heritage Trail, a boat ramp and docking area, an educational pavilion, and an outdoor amphitheater equipped with electricity for performing arts and special events. In 2006 the Wyandotte County Lewis & Clark Task Force incorporated as the Friends of Kaw Point, Inc. and they continue to make improvements to the park and plan for events.

### *About the Kansas City Kansas Public Library:*

The Kansas City, Kansas Public Library is composed of four traditional library branches and one environmental learning center. The Main Branch is at 625 Minnesota Ave. The library system offers the surrounding community a wide array of public programs, classes, and children’s activities in both English and Spanish, as well as a vast collection of print and audio-visual materials. More information is available at [www.kckpl.org](http://www.kckpl.org).

### *About Bethany Park:*

Bethany Park, located at Central Avenue and North 12th Street, is part of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas Parks and Recreation Association. Situated on 8.4 acres, the park offers two lighted tennis courts, picnic grills and tables, a sand volleyball court, a walking trail, and a community center with a gymnasium and meeting rooms.



Kansas City, Kansas  
Public Library

