

John Salvest

IOU/USA

September 2nd - October 16, 2011

Opening Reception: Friday, September 2nd, 6-9pm, at two locations—Grand Arts and Memorial Hill Park

Gallery talk with the artist: Saturday, September 3rd, 2pm at Grand Arts

Please see grandarts.com for additional public programs to be announced



Photo: Mike Sinclair

PRESS RELEASE

JULY 12, 2011

Grand Arts is pleased to announce the upcoming installation of sculptor John Salvest's *IOU/USA*, a major public artwork to be sited in Memorial Hill/Penn Valley Park.

IOU/USA will transform the ubiquitous material of cargo shipping containers into a giant, temporary public sculpture. One hundred and five containers will be stacked seven high to create a massive wall with embedded text on both sides. The containers will spell out "I O U" on one side and "U S A" on the other.

The site for the project—in close proximity to the Federal Reserve Bank, Liberty Memorial, and WWI Museum—is intended to imbue the work with many possibilities for interpretation. The project deliberately resists polarities of left and right, liberal and

conservative, though, and takes no 'sides.' Instead, it inhabits an allusive poetics of the familiar, utilizing language and materials that are simple but evocative to suggest the shared weight of our individual and collective debts.

Says Salvest, "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. 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."

Installation in the Park will begin August 15, 2011, and *IOU/USA* will open to the public on Friday, September 2 at 6pm. Thereafter, the installation will be accessible to visitors 24 hours a day, seven days a week through October 16, 2011.

Grand Arts will convene several public programs and workshops in connection with the project. For more information, please see <<grandarts.com>>.

Press inquiries may be directed to:

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ARTIST BIO

John Salvest's work has been presented in exhibitions throughout the United States, including one-person exhibitions at New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York; Contemporary Art Museum, St. Louis; Salina Art Center, Salina, Kansas; Brooks Museum of Art, Memphis and many more. Salvest is the recipient of numerous awards and grants including National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships in 1991 and 1993 and a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant in 1998. He has completed public art projects for the Cannon Center for the Performing Arts in Memphis and Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, among others. The Cannon Center project was cited as one of the country's best public art projects by Americans for the Arts Public Art Network's 2004 Public Art Year in Review. His work has been reviewed and featured in publications such as *Art in America*, *The New York Times*, *The Village Voice*, *Sculpture*, *Art Papers*, *The New Art Examiner* and more.

John Salvest is represented by Morgan Lehman Gallery, New York; Rudolph Blume

Fine Art, Houston; and Endemica Gallery, Rome, Italy.

ABOUT GRAND ARTS

Grand Arts is a non-profit art project space in downtown Kansas City. We commission and assist artists in the production and realization of ambitious contemporary art projects. Over the past 15 years we have produced and exhibited more than 75 projects by artists including Isaac Julien, Sanford Biggers, Rosemarie Fiore, Laurel Nakadate, William Pope.L, Emily Roysdon and Sissel Tolaas.

THANK YOU

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