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For immediate release

2015 Charlotte Street Foundation Visual Artist Awards exhibition to open October 24 at H&R Block Artspace

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (October 15, 2015) — The H&R Block Artspace at the Kansas City Art Institute in partnership with the Charlotte Street Foundation presents an exhibition of work by the 2015 Charlotte Street Foundation Visual Artist Award Fellows. The exhibition runs Oct. 24 through Dec. 16 and features the work of Jill Downen (289 painting), Rashawn Griffin and Misha Kligman. Each artist received an unrestricted cash award of \$10,000 from the Charlotte Street Foundation.

The Charlotte Street Visual Artist Awards Fellows were selected through a competitive process, which began with an open call for applications from artists based in the 5-county Kansas City Metro Area. The selection process culminated with in-person visits and studio visits with 10 finalists.

The work of the Visual Artist Awards Fellows will be featured in the “2015 Charlotte Street Visual Artist Awards” exhibition with an opening reception from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Friday, October 23 at the H&R Block Artspace. The reception is free and open to the public.

All three artists will participate in KCAI’s continuing fall lecture series, “Current Perspectives,” at 7 p.m., Nov. 19 in Epperson Auditorium in Vanderslice Hall on the KCAI campus. For more information on the lecture and artists, visit: <http://www.kcai.edu/events/current-perspectives>.

About the Charlotte Street Visual Artist Awards:

Charlotte Street launched its Visual Artist Awards in 1997. Including the 2015 Awards, Charlotte Street has now distributed \$702,100 to Kansas City-based artists through the Awards program, with a total of 86 visual artists receiving these Awards to date. These Awards aim to recognize and meaningfully support exceptional artists working in the visual arts field, who are actively creating new, contemporary work. The Awards recognize accomplishments to date as well as promise for continued artistic development and achievement.

For more information about the 2015 Visual Artist Award Fellows visit:

<http://www.kcai.edu/artspace/exhibitions/8609/charlotte-street-foundation-visual-artist-awards>

About H&R Block Artspace:

Since 1999, the H&R Block Artspace at the Kansas City Art Institute has been dedicated to presenting quality exhibitions of contemporary art and a range of public programs for a growing audience of students, educators, artists, arts enthusiasts and the general public. Program support has been provided by the H&R Block Foundation and the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency. The Artspace is located at 16 E. 43rd St., one block east of Main Street.

Public hours are noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Admission is free. To schedule a group visit or gallery talk with Artspace staff, call 816-802-3571. For more information about the Artspace and public programs, visit <http://www.kcai.edu/artspace>.

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About The Charlotte Street Foundation:

Over 18 years, The Charlotte Street Foundation has challenged, nurtured and empowered thousands of artists, distributed more than \$950,000 in awards and grants to artists and their projects and connected individual artists to each other and to the greater Kansas City community. Charlotte Street – with its community of artists – strives to be a primary catalyst in making Kansas City a vibrant, creative metropolis, alive with collaboration, passion, ideas and surprise. For more information about Charlotte Street, its awards, programs and initiatives, visit <http://www.charlottestreet.org>.

About the Kansas City Art Institute

The Kansas City Art Institute, located in Kansas City, Mo., 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, fiber, filmmaking, graphic design, illustration, interactive arts, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture and studio art with an emphasis on creative writing. KCAI also offers a post-baccalaureate program in art education, as well as certificate programs in social practice 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 its 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.

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Note to editors: Photos available on request