

For immediate release

“Digitalfile,” curated by SPECTRA, presents time-based artworks by KC artists, at the H&R Block Artspace



Elizabeth Howe, video still, “Nu Space: Beginnings, Origins, Deities? Humanoid or Otherwise,” 2013, 6 min. 52 sec., Courtesy of the artist.

KANSAS CITY, Mo (May 30, 2014) – “Digitalfile,” is a group exhibition of time-based artwork by 19 Kansas City based artists, presented in conjunction with the 2014 Kansas City Flatfile at the H&R Block Artspace at the Kansas City Art Institute (16 East 43rd Street, Kansas City, MO 64111). SPECTRA, a nomadic platform for contemporary time-based artwork, has curated the exhibition to present challenging and prescient time-based artwork reflecting the varied and dynamic practices of Kansas City artists. The exhibition is on view June 7 – September 27, with an opening reception on Friday, June 6, 6-8pm.

“Digitalfile” presents new works of film, video, sound, and other time-based media that reflect the diverse practices of artists who are devoted to exploring the particularities of their specific medium or are, alternatively, working in a variety of forms including painting, sculpture, performance and, of course, the moving image and sound. These practices reflect a larger trend in contemporary art as identified in the art historian Claire Bishop’s recent essay “Digital Divide,” wherein she argues that the most dominant trends in contemporary art (including performance, social practice, assemblage-based sculpture, painting on canvas, the “archival impulse,” analog film, and the fascination with modernist design and architecture) are, beyond first glance, intimately connected to the technological revolution that we are undergoing because they seem united in their apparent eschewal of the digital and the virtual. Conversely, the works in “Digitalfile” fully embrace the digital and virtual, reflecting deeply on how we experience, and are altered by, the digitization of our existence.

“Digitalfile” is organized into three five-week chapters, presenting approximately six artworks in the gallery at a time. The three chapters are as follows:

Chapter I (June 7 – July 10)

Chapter II (July 12 – August 20)

Chapter III (August 23 – September 27)

Artists featured: Beverly Ahern, Francisco Alarcon, Jessica Borusky, Lindsay Fernandez, Maura Garcia, Lea Griggs, Ben Harle, Diana Heise, Caitlin Horsman, Elizabeth Howe, Ritchie Kaye, Julianna Lynn, J. Ashley Miller and Daniel Goggin, Natalie Myers, David Overholt, Christoph Steger, Kati Toivanen, and Annie Woodfill.

#### About SPECTRA

SPECTRA is a nomadic initiative that introduces contemporary time-based artworks to Kansas City. This monthly platform presents experimental works by regional, national, and international artists and filmmakers. Each SPECTRA program is hosted in partnership with a selected venue, reflecting the desire to develop a dedicated yet inclusive community audience. SPECTRA seeks to connect artists and audiences to communities and ideas outside of their normal purview. SPECTRA is a collaborative effort organized in 2013 by the Kansas City based artists Yann Aguirre, Tim Amundson, Crystal Ann Brown, Jeff Eaton, and Robert Howsare. Follow SPECTRA on the Web at [facebook.com/spectrakansascity](https://facebook.com/spectrakansascity)

#### About the H&R Block Artspace

Celebrating its 15th anniversary in 2014, the H&R Block Artspace at the Kansas City Art Institute is dedicated to artists, art and ideas. The Artspace presents exhibitions of contemporary art and a range of public programs for a growing audience of students, educators, artists, arts enthusiasts and the general public. Support for these programs 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. For more information about upcoming exhibitions and public programs, visit the Artspace on the Web at [www.kcai.edu/artspace](http://www.kcai.edu/artspace) or call 816-561- 5563.

#### About the Kansas City Art Institute

The Kansas City Art Institute 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, digital filmmaking, digital media, fiber, graphic design, illustration, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture and studio art with an emphasis on creative writing. The college also offers certificate programs in Community Arts and Service Learning 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 the 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](http://www.kcai.edu).