



IN GRATITUDE

Tate Owens, Kansas City, MO
9th Street & Mass – east corner

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IN GRATITUDE is created from a repurposed airport hangar window frame, backed with wood and adorned with recycled book covers. The work reflects Owens' passion for transforming discarded materials into art that celebrates color, reading, and lifelong learning.

As an interdisciplinary artist, educator, and Fine Arts advocate from western Kansas, Owens draws inspiration from his rural roots and deep connection to the land. His use of recycled and natural materials highlights both sustainability and the enduring bond between nature, community, and creativity.



LIVING GODS

Ky Reid, Lawrence, KS
Three performances downtown

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THIS PERFORMANCE INSTALLATION brings the conversation about how queer bodies are perceived and critiqued into the streets of Lawrence through the tradition of living statues. Three fully body-painted queer performers stand on pedestals at an intersection, appearing as if carved from stone. They remain motionless, only moving when tipped, symbolizing both their glorification and the ways society silences or commodifies them. The pedestals represent platforms built by media that both elevate and distance queer bodies from the public.

Ky Reid is a local queer multimedia artist and drag performer, known as KYKY Mo-Dean. They perform with the drag collective Dorothy & the Dolls in Lawrence and across the Midwest. Combining art and activism, Ky has helped define queer nightlife in Lawrence and works to elevate drag as a recognized art form by broadening venues and audiences.



MEMORY

V. Skip Willits, Comanche, IA
South Park, west side, northeast corner

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THIS SCULPTURE COMBINES welded recycled steel with braided strands of barge rope, found along the Mississippi River. The rope was unwound, reworked, and tightly woven into the metal framework, creating a figure-like form supported by a heavy base. For the artist, process is central—each recycled and found material carries its own history and memory, which becomes part of the dialogue as it is transformed into something new.

Willits began welding at the age of 10 under the guidance of his father, who taught him the properties of steel, cast iron, aluminum, and multiple welding techniques. He produced his first major public sculpture in 1983 and has since exhibited annually in outdoor sculpture shows while also completing commissions across the United States, Canada, and Europe. Living and working along the Mississippi River, Willits creates work that weaves together his identity and life experiences.



PAINT THE TOWN IN PAPER

Evan Johnson, Lawrence, KS
Trees in South Park

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PAINT THE TOWN IN PAPER is a community art project inviting people to create and apply handmade paper pulp designs to trees in South Park and throughout Lawrence. Made from recycled yard and paper waste, cellulose, and natural dyes, the pulp is environmentally safe and often reused by birds and squirrels. Each event offers a creative, hands-on way to learn about papermaking and connect with others.

Evan Johnson, a Lawrence-based papermaker and printmaker, earned his BFA from Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle and interned with Green Banana Paper in Micronesia. He founded Fred Paper Co., a studio focused on fine art papermaking using local fibers and recycled materials, and has taught workshops since 2021, sharing the sustainable and therapeutic nature of handmade paper.c process of handmade papermaking with the community.

Lawrence KANSAS Unmistakable 2025 PUBLIC ART EXHIBITION

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Porter Arneill

Assistant Director, Parks, Recreation and Culture

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Some sculptures may be available for sale.
For information, contact Parks, Recreation and Culture:
785-832-3450

The Outdoor Downtown Sculpture Exhibition was founded in 1987 by Jim Patti and the Kansas Sculptors Association. This year, in recognition of advancements in public art, the Cultural Arts Commission renamed the program the Unmistakable Public Art Exhibition.

The OTOCAST app is available
for self-guided tours in Lawrence:
lawrenceks.org/lprd/upae/

Lawrence KANSAS Unmistakable 2025 PUBLIC ART EXHIBITION

lawrenceks.org/lprd/upae

This long-standing and popular program was originally started by local artist Jim Patti in 1987 and was called the Outdoor Downtown Sculpture Exhibition. This year, in recognition of advancements in public art, the Cultural Arts Commission renamed the program the Unmistakable Public Art Exhibition. Nine artworks were selected this year by the Cultural Arts Commission. You'll also see a few sculptures that are still on exhibit from previous years. All the artworks are created by local and regional artists. Each of these unique artworks showcase a variety of styles and media, and each piece adds an unmistakable touch to our community for residents and visitors alike!

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On behalf of the entire City Commission, I would like to thank the Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission and the Lawrence Parks, Recreation and Culture staff for their continued dedication to this sculpture exhibition. I'd also like to give a special thanks to James Patti, for establishing this exhibition in 1987. With his foresight, the Outdoor Downtown Sculpture Exhibition and now Unmistakable Public Art Exhibition has become a permanent part of our cityscape. – Mayor Michael Dever

<div>1</div> <div>THEATRE LAWRENCE ← 4660 Bauer Farm Dr.</div>			<div>CITY HALL</div>	
	<div>6TH ST.</div> <div>7TH ST.</div>	<div>MASS ST.</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>NEW HAMPSHIRE ST.</div>
	<div>LIBRARY</div> <div>5</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>7</div>	
	<div>8TH ST.</div>		<div>4</div> <div>6</div>	
	<div>9TH ST.</div> <div>10TH ST.</div>	<div>MASS ST.</div>		<div>LAWRENCE ARTS CENTER</div>
<div>KENTUCKY ST.</div>	<div>VERMONT ST.</div>	<div>WATKINS MUSEUM</div>		
	<div>11TH ST.</div> <div>N. PARK ST.</div>		<div>DOUGLAS COUNTY COURTHOUSE</div>	
	<div>SOUTH PARK</div>	<div>8</div>	<div>9</div>	



Kristin Garnant, Commanche, IA
Theatre Lawrence - 4660 Bauer Farm Dr



Nathaniel Pierce, Cape Girardeau, MO
6th & Mass – southeast corner



Jacob Burmood, St. Joseph, MO
7th & Mass – southwest corner



Myles Schachter, Lawrence, KS
8th & Mass – southeast corner



Alicia Kelly, Lawrence, KS
Vermont Street Garage – 725 Vermont

THIS TOWERING PIECE reaches for the sky. At 16 feet it has an imposing presence, even with its willowy profile. The long rods are allowed to undulate in the passing breeze. It has a rigid base that holds it firmly on the ground, even though it appears to be ready to take flight.

With a background in graphic arts, Garnant has explored book design, photography, and printing before turning to metal as her medium. She draws on her design experience to create compositions where the strength and texture of steel echo the layered qualities of fine handmade papers. By reinterpreting ordinary forms in metal, she transforms them into something entirely new. For Garnant, the most compelling part of this process is the unexpected journey each piece takes—often unfolding into a realm far different from what she first envisioned.

IN TODAY'S SOCIAL LANDSCAPE, we continually find ourselves amidst growth and change. Through this piece, I hope to spark imagination and inspire more meaningful communication. My work encourages people to connect more deeply with one another and with their community, embracing both the challenges and opportunities of our changing world.

Pierce's sculptures blend strength and delicacy, transforming everyday surroundings into extraordinary experiences. Rooted in the landscapes and stories of his upbringing, his work engages and inspires communities through the power of public art. By uncovering the unexpected within the familiar, Pierce invites viewers to see the world with fresh eyes, sparking curiosity, reflection, and a deeper connection to the beauty around us.

CONTINUITY was created through a series of repetitive movements to map the fluid movements of the human body.

Inspired by walks through forests and along rivers, Balcom's work reflects the harmony found in nature's interconnected forces. The abstract forms he creates echo both the fluidity of the universe and the movement of the human body, seeking an underlying order that unifies diverse elements into a cohesive whole. Through sleek, stylized designs, he strives to suggest the possibilities we might achieve—individually and as a society—when we act with intelligence and compassion.

THE FLAMENCO DANCER in *Dance for Hope* embodies resilience and hope—expressing passion, love, sadness, and joy even in the face of despair. Inspired by Andalusian gypsy traditions, the work captures the timeless spirit of Flamenco as a dance for our times.

Carved from Carrara Statuario marble, the figure is accented with bronze details—a far, hat, and stiletto—patinated in rich reds and swirling colors. The sculpture rests on an Opera Fantastico marble base, whose subtle grays, whites, and touches of red complement the dynamic form without distraction.

Schachter started sculpting in 1995 under the tutelage of renowned KU Professor and artist Eldon Tefft. He worked as an assistant in Tefft's bronze foundry where he was introduced to stone sculpting. He and Professor Tefft then started biannual workshops in stone carving, which has continued for 24 years with about 50 attendees at every session.

THIS IS A LARGE-SCALE INSTALLATION that blends playfulness and meditation evoking home, creativity, and connection. Abstract forms arranged in vertical and horizontal grids invite viewers to find their own images within the shapes. Made from hand-cut Tyvek and locally printed vinyl banners featuring the artist's blue abstract sketches, the work transforms the Lawrence Public Library parking garage into a vibrant canvas.

Alicia Kelly, a Lawrence-based artist from Northeastern Oklahoma, works in paper and screen printing. Her layered patterns and installations explore texture, repetition, and immersive design. She has exhibited nationally and internationally, completed residencies at Bunnell Street Arts Center (AK) and 108 Contemporary (OK), teaches at the Lawrence Arts Center, serves on the Cultural Arts Commission, and participates in international paper art organizations.