

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Kansas City Jewish Museum of Contemporary Art (KCJMCA) is pleased to announce the selection of five Finalists: Jessica Kincaid, Tracy Krumm, Marcie Miller Gross, Sonié Ruffin, and Debra Smith for the Greater Kansas City Area Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Arts 2012 Biennial Program *Women to Watch: Fiber/Textiles*. These five artists will receive a group exhibition at the Epsten Gallery May 20-June 24, 2012. We are also pleased to announce that Tracy Krumm has been selected by the National Museum of Women in the Arts to participate in a group exhibition in Washington, D.C. November 2, 2012 – January 6, 2013.

Contact: Marcus Cain, Executive Director (mdc.kcjmca@gmail.com)
Kansas City Jewish Museum of Contemporary Art
Epsten Gallery at Village Shalom
5500 West 123rd Street (at Nall Avenue), Overland Park, KS 66209
www.kcjmca.org (913.266.8413)

Kansas City, MO / Overland Park, KS — The Kansas City Jewish Museum of Contemporary Art is pleased to host the 2012 biennial competition of the Greater Kansas City Area Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Arts with *Women to Watch 2012: Focus on Fiber & Textiles*, a group competition and exhibition featuring works by artists **Jessica Kincaid, Tracy Krumm, Marcie Miller Gross, Sonié Ruffin, and Debra Smith**. This 2012 competition represents a partnership between KCJMCA, the Greater Kansas City Area Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, and the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C.

The **opening reception** for *Women to Watch 2012: Focus on Fiber & Textiles* is **Sunday, May 20, 2012** from **1-4 p.m.** in the Epsten Gallery with **artists remarks at 2 p.m.** *Women to Watch 2012* remains on view through **Sunday, June 24, 2012**. (All events are free and open to the public.)

Women to Watch 2012: Focus on Fiber & Textiles
Jessica Kincaid, Tracy Krumm, Marcie Miller Gross, Sonié Ruffin, Debra Smith

Founded in Washington, D.C. in 1981 by Wilhelmina Cole Holladay and her husband Wallace Holladay, the National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA) mission is to redefine traditional histories of art, and it is the only museum dedicated to celebrating the diverse artistic achievements of women. NMWA's biennial *Women To Watch* program is an exhibition series that features emerging and underrepresented artists from states and countries in which the museum has outreach committees, and each biennial competition highlights a different media. Curators from these respective regions are invited to jury a selection of five representative artists to serve as finalists from whom NMWA curators select one artist to participate in representing that region within a national group exhibition in Washington D.C.

In 2011, KCJMCA Executive Director/Curator Marcus Cain was invited by the Greater Kansas City Area Committee of NMWA to organize the 2012 biennial competition, which has a focus on fiber and textiles. Cain organized a Nomination/Selection Committee of five local arts professionals to identify a pool of 24 candidates from which he and 2010 Women to Watch Juror Rachel Blackburn Cozad, Director/CEO of the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art selected five women artists working in the medium of fiber/textiles to exhibit at the Epsten Gallery: Jessica Kincaid, Tracy Krumm, Marcie Miller

Gross, Sonié Ruffin and Debra Smith. (On April 6, 2012, NMWA Curators announced their selection of Tracy Krumm to represent Kansas City in the national group exhibition in Washington, D.C.)

In 2009, the Greater KC Area Committee of NMWA invited Rachel Blackburn Cozad to jury finalists in painting and local artist Julie Farstad was ultimately selected to exhibit in Washington, D.C. in 2010.)

2012 KCJMCA / Greater KC Area Committee of National Museum of Women in the Arts Jurors and Nomination/Selection Committee:

Jurors

- Marcus Cain, Artist; Director/Curator Kansas City Jewish Museum of Contemporary Art
- Rachel Blackburn Cozad, Director/CEO Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art; Independent Art Appraiser; Juror, 2010 Women to Watch: Painting

Nomination/Selection Committee

- Kate Hackman, Co-Director Charlotte Street Foundation/Urban Culture Project; Curator; Writer
- Anne Pearce, Artist; Director of the Greenlease Gallery, Rockhurst University; Art Instructor, Rockhurst University; Finalist, 2010 Women to Watch: Painting
- Jason Pollen, Artist; Professor and former Chair of Fiber Department, Kansas City Art Institute
- Raechell Smith, Director/Curator of the H&R Block Artspace of the Kansas City Art Institute
- Arzie Umali, Artist; Curator; Assistant Director, Women's Center, University of Missouri-Kansas City

Quotes from correspondence with Kathryn Wat, Curator of Modern & Contemporary Art, NMWA:

"You clearly live in a land of amazing artists..."

"I am delighted to confirm that we have selected Tracy Krumm to represent the Greater Kansas City Area Committee in NMWA's upcoming Women to Watch exhibition. Her innovative sculptures blending metal and traditional fiber techniques exemplify the superb work being done by artists in your region."

"...all of the Kansas City finalists are first-rate. Women to Watch is one of the most gratifying exhibitions on which I work here at NMWA. I am so inspired (and of course our visitors are too!) by the boundless creativity of women artists shaping trends in contemporary art. Thank you so much for your involvement with this project."

Established in 1991, the purpose of Kansas City Jewish Museum of Contemporary Art (KCJMCA) is to provide innovative art exhibitions and related programming that engage seniors and diverse audiences from all segments of our community to enrich lives and celebrate our common humanity through art. KCJMCA realizes this goal through its celebrated Epsten Gallery venue at Village Shalom and through its Museum Without Walls exhibition partnership program.

###



NATIONAL MUSEUM
of WOMEN in the ARTS